

The most Delectable
HISTORY
OF *St. James.*
Reynard the Fox,

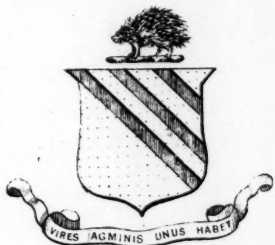
Newly Corrected and purged from all
grossenesse in phrase and matter

As also augmented and enlarged with sundry ex-
cellent Moralls and expositions upon every several Chapter.



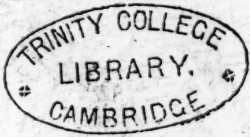
London, Printed by H. B. and are to be sold by
Edward Blount at the Crane in St. Pauls
Church-Yard. 1662.

Reynolds



K

BIBLIOTHECAE
COLLEGII SANCTI ET INDIVISIBILIS TRINITATIS CANTONIAE
LEGAVIT
CULIEMUS GRYLLS, A. M.
HUIUS COLLEGII QUONDAM DISCIPULUS SCHOLARIS
A. D. MDCCCLXIII.



London, Printed by H. D. and Co. to be sold by
Edward Blythe at the Crane in St. Dunstons
Church-yard 1863.



The Epistle to the Reader.

THou hast here (courteous
and friendly Reader (the
pleasant and delightfull
History of *Reynard* the
Fox, which in an humble and low stile
(couched to the natures of Beasts it
treateth on) beareth in it much excel-
lent Morality and hidden wisedome,
worthy both thy regard in reading,
and thine application in the course
and commercement of thy life and a-
ctions ; for the aim at which it bendeth
is the overthrow of vice and the ad-
vancement of the good and virtuous.

Now forasmuch as hitherto it hath
flown into the World (like *Sibbilla's*

The Epistle to the Reader.

loose papers) covered with much obscurity and darknesse; I have for thy more ease and contentment, to every severall Chapter annexed the Moralls and Expositions of such dark places, as may hold thy Judgement in seeking to find out a labyrint th so dark & curious; A labour which I doubt not but it will prove both pleasant & wholesom, since as a friendly guide it will keep thy meditations from wandring astray, and as a pleasant Companion hold thee with such delightful discourse that thy Journey therein will neither be long nor irksome; as which end if it arrive with a fair safety as it is faithfully and truly intended, I have the sum of my wishes, & thy self the prosperity, both of this and other mens endeavours.

Farewel

THE



The Pleasant
HISTORY
OF
Reynard the FOX.

CHAP. I.

How the Lyon proclaimed a solemn Feast at his Court, and how *Isegrim* the Wolf and his Wife, and *Curse* the Hound made their complaints of *Reynard* the Fox.



AND the Feast of Pentecost (which is commonly called Whitsontide, (when the Woods are in their lusty-hood and gallantry, and every Tree clothed in the green and white Liberty of glorious leaves, and sweet smelling blossoms, & the earth covered in her sweet mantle of Flowers, which the Birds with much joy entertain with the delight of their harmonious songs.

Even at this time and entrance of the lusty Spring, the Lion the Ropall King of Beasts, to celebrate this holy Feast time in this triumphant ceremony, intends to keep open Court at his great palace of Sanden, & to that end (by solemn Proclamation) makes known over all his Kingdome to all Beasts whatsoever, that upon pain to be held contemptuous every one should resort to that great celebration, so that within few days after (at the time prescribed) he sits both great &

The pleasant History

small came is infinite multitudes to the Court only Reynard the Fox excepted, who knew himself guilty in so many trespasses against many beasts, that his coming thither must needs have put his life in great hazard and danger.



Now when the King had assembled all his Court together, there were few beasts found but made their several complaints against the Fox, but especially Iggriem the Wolfe, who being first and principall in complaint, came with all his kinne and kindred, and standing before the King, said in this manner.

My dread and dearest Sovereign Lord the King, I humbly beseech you, that from the height and strength of your great power and the multitude of your mercies, you will be pleased to take pity on the great trespasses and unsufferable injuries which that unworthy creature Reynard the Fox hath done to me my wife and our whole family: of which to give your highness some taste, know (if it please your Majesty) that this Reynard

of Reynard the Fox



Reynard came into my house by violence, and against the will of my wife. where knowing my children late in their quiet couch, he so be-pist them in so rank a manner, that with the sharpness of his arms they felt stantly. And for this offence a day was set and appointed, whereat Reynard should come to excuse himself, and to take a solemn oath that he was guiltless of that high injury: but as soon as he looked before him, (he that well knew his own guiltiness) refused to swear & ran stantly into his hole both in contempt of your Majesty and your Laws. It is (my dread Lord) may not the noblest Beasts know which now are resident in your Country, but this alone bounded his malice, but in many other things he hath trespassed against me, which to relate in this time nor your Highness patience would give sufferance there to: suffice it mine injuries are so great that none can exceed them, and the shame and villainy he hath done to my wife such that I can neither bide nor suffer it in revenge, but I must expect from him amends, & from your Majesty mercy

When

The pleasant Histo ry

When the wolf had spoken these wordes, there stood by him
a little hound whose name was Curle, who stopping stood
made likewise a grieuous complaint (unto the King) against
the Fox saying, that in the extreame cold season of the winter
when the frost was most violent, he being naked starved & de-
stained from all manner of prey, had no more meat left him to
sustain his life then one poor Pardoning, which Pardoning (he
said) Reynard, had most unjustly taken from him.



of Reynard the Fox

But the Hound could hardly let these words fly from his
lips, when with a steepe and angry countenance, in sprang
Tiber the Cat amongst them, and falling down before the
King said My Lord the King I must confesse the Fox is here
guiltlesly complained upon, yet were other Beasts actions
searched each would have enough to do for his own clearing,
Touching the complaint of Courtese the Hound, it was an
offence committed many yeares ago. and though I my self
complain of no injury yet was the hurting mine, and not his,
for I got it by night out of a Mill when the Miller lay a sleep
so that if Courtese could challenge any share thereof, it must
be from mine interest.

When Panther heard these words of the Cat, he slept forth
and said do you imagine, Tiber, that it were a just or a good
course that Reynard should not be complained on? why the
whole world knows he is a murdherer a ravisher, and a thief
and that indeed he loveth not truly any creature, no not his
Wife: say himself, but would suffer his Highnesse to lose both
Honour and renown, so that he might thereby attain to him-
self but so much as the leg of a fat henne: I shall tell you
what I saw him do yesterday to Kyward the Hare, that now
stands in the Kings protection, he promised unto Kyward
that he would teach him his Credo, and make him a good
Chaplain, he made him come sit between his leggs and sing
and cry aloud, credo, credo: my way lay thereby and I heard
the song, then coming nearer I found that Reynard had
left his first note and song, and began to play his old delect:
for he had caught Kyward by the throat, & bad I nor at that
time come, he had taken his life a so, as you may see by the
fresh wound on Kyward at this present My Lord the King
if you suffer this unpunished, and let him go quit that hath
thus broken your peace, and profaned your dignity, and
doing no right according to the judgment of your Lawes, your
Princely chlozen many yeares hereafter shall bear the stange
of his evil. Certainly Panther (said Igrim) you say true
and it is fit they receive the benefit of Justice, that desire to
live in peace.

the pleasant History

CHAP 2.

How *Grimbard* the Brock spake for *Reynard* before the King.

Then spake *Grimbard* the Brock (that was *Reynards* sisters Son) being much moved wth anger : Ilegim



of Reynard the Fox.

How are malicious, and its a common proverbly malice never spoke well? what can you say against my kinsman Reynard? I wond you durst adventure that which of you had most injured one another, might ogethe death, and be hanged as a felon? I tell you, were he here in the court, and as much in the King's favour as you are, it would be much to little satisfaction for you to ask more: you have many times bitten and torn my kinsman with your venomous teeth, and oftner much then I can reckon, yet some I will call up to my remembrance.

Have you forgot how you cheated him with the **P**artridge which he threw down from the Cart, when you followed a-lasse for fear you devoured the good **P**artridge alone and gave him no more but the great bones, which you could not eat your self: the like you did with the fat ditch of Bacon, whose task was so good, that your self alone did eat it up and when my Uncle asked his part, you answered him with scorn, that young man thou shalt have the share: but he got not any thing, albeit he won the Bacon with great fear and hazard, for the owner came, and caught my kinsman in a sack, from whence he hardly escaped with life: many of those injuries hath **H**egrim done to Reynard which I beseech your Lordship judge if they be sufferable: again, he complaineth that my kinsman hath wronged him in his wife: tis true, and I confesse, Reynard hath lien with her, yet it was seven years befoze **H**egrim did wed her, and if my uncle out of his courtesie did her a pleasure, what was that to him? she was soon healed of his soze: nor ought he to complain of any thing not belonging to him: wisdom would have concealed it, for what credit gets he by the slander of his, especially when she is not grieved?

How comes Kayward the Hare with his complaint, which to me seemed but a trifle, for if he will learn to read and read not his lesson aright, who will blame the School-master Reynard, if he give him due correction, for if scholars be not beaten, and chastised they will never learn.

Lastly complaineth Curlew that he with great pain had

The pleasant History

thing sooner
things a good
man to beliefe
and forgive-
ment.

gotten a Pudding in the winter, being a season in which beasts are hard: me thinks Silence would have become him better, for he had stolen it: and Male quesiti, & male perdit, it is fit it was still lost. 'twas evill won who can blame Reynard to take stolen goods from a thief. It is reason that he which understanes the Law and can discern right, being of great and high birth as my kinsman is, do right, and the law, nay had he hanged up Curtilie when he took him with the manner he had offended none but the King, in doing Justice without leave; wherefore for respect to his majesty he did it not, though he reap'd little thanks for his labour: alas how do those complaints hurt him; mine Uncle is a Gentleman and a true man, nor can he endure falsehood, he doth nothing without the counsell of the Justice: and I affirm, since my Lord the King proclaimed his peace he never thought to hurt any man: for he eateth but once a day he liveth as a Recluse he chastish his body and weareth a shirt of hair-cloth: it is above a year since he eat any flesh (as I have been truly informed by them which came but yesterday from him) he hath forsaken his Castle Malepardo, and abandoned all royalty a poor hermitage retains him, hunting he hath forsworn, and his wealth he hath scattered living onely by almes and good mens charities; doing infinite penance for his sins, so that he is become pale and leane with praying, and fasting, for he would faine go with God.

Thus whilst Grimbold his nephew stood preaching, the Percepsing coming down the hill unto them about Chantecler the Cock, who brought upon a Bier a dead Hen, of whom Reynard hath bitten off the head and was brought to the King to have knowledge thereof

How Chanteclere the Cock complained of Reynard the
FOX.

CHANTECLEERE marched forth most, smote pitiously his hands and feathers, whilst on the other side the Bier were the



two sorrowfull Hens the one was Taniart the other the good
Hen Cragant being two of the fairest Hens between Holland
and Arden These Hens bore each of them a straight bright
burning Taper: and these Hens were sisters to Coppel
which lay dead on the Bier and in the marching they cried
alack alack and well-a-day for the death of Coppel our
dear

The pleasant History

The Morall.

When wicked

men can not

compass their

wickednes, by

strong hand or in

violence against

their enemies;

then they flye

deceit and

in this manner.

Post merissal and my great Lord the King vouchsafe,

to belec you to hear my complaint and redress these injuries

which Reynard hath unlawfully done to me, and my children

which are now here stand and weeping, for so it is most mighty Sir

that at the beginning of Aprill, when the weather was fair,

being then at the height of my pride and glory, because of

the great store and lineage I came of, and also in that I had

Religion: foregibt ballant lions, and seven fair daughters, which my wife

that working had hatched, and which were strong and fat, and walked in a

park well walled and fenced round about, wherein they had

in several places for their guard for their Mastiff Dogs, which

had torn the skins of many wild beasts, so that my chyl-

dren feared not any evil which might happen unto them:

But Reynard that false and deceitful traitor, envying

their happy fortune because of their safety many times at-

tacking the walls, and gave such dangerous assaults, that the

Dogs others times were let forth unto him and hunted him

away, yea once they fight upon him and bit him and, made

him pay the price of his thyft, and his torn skin witnessed,

yet none of these he escape, the more was the pitty; yet we

were quiet of his trouble a great while after, at last he came

in the likeness of a Heron, and brought me a Letter to read,

sealed with your Majesty's Seal, in which I found writen,

that your Highness had made peace throughout all your

Realm, and that no manner of beastes or fowls should do in-

jury one to another assaying unto me, that for his own

part he was become a Monk, or a cloistered Recluse, bowing

to perform a penitence for his sinnes: the which unto

me his Words, his Books and the burthen next to his chin

saying in humblewise unto me, Sir Chantecleer, never

henceforth be afraid of me, for I have sworn never more to

eat flesh,

dear sister. Two young Hen: bare the bir which cackled fi
heavily, and wept so loud for the death of Coppel their mo
ther, that the bits gave an eccho to the clamour: thus be
ing come before the King, Chantecleer knelling so on, spake

Most merissal and my great Lord the King vouchsafe, I
beseech you to hear my complaint and redress these injuries
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eat flesh,

of Reynard the Fox.



I am now waxed old, and would onely remember my soule:
 therefore I take my leave: for I hate yet my noon and my
 even: long is sey: which spake, he departed, saying his Credo
 as he went, and laye him down under a Pant horn: at this
 I was exceeding glad, that I took no heed but went and
 locked my chylde together, and waited without the wall
 which

The pleasant History

which I shall euen rue : for false Reynard lying under a bush came creeping betwixt us and the gate, and suddenly surpris-
sed one of my children, which he thrust up in his maw & bore
away to my great sorrow, for having tasted the sweetness of
our flesh, neither hunter nor hound can protect or ke. p him
from us : Night and day he waits upon us with that greed-
nesse, that of fifteen of my children he hath left but four un-
slaughtered, and yesterday Coppell my daughter (which
here lyeth dead on the ster) was (after her mother) by a
Renue of hounds rescued from him. This is my complaint
and this I leave to your Highness mercy to take pity of me,
and the losse of my fair children.

The Kings Answer to the Cocks complaint, and how they
long the Dirge.

The Moral,

Here those
that excuse bad
actions may see
how such offen-
ces return to
disgrace, be-
cause evil mens
vices being dis-
closed, the ex-
cuse is in their
shames that
make them as
it hapned now
to the Brock.
Also in the
Lyon may be
seen the effects
of good dis-
cipline, which is
express in the
honour and

Then spake the King. Sir. Grimbard, hear you this of your
uncle the Recluse : he hath fasted and prayed well : well
believe it, if I live a year he shall dearly abide it : as for you
Chantecler your complaint is heard, and shall be cured : to
your daughter that is dead, we will give her the right burial,
and with solemn Dirge bring her to the earth with wor-
ship ; which done we will consult with our Lords, how to
do you right and Justice against the murderer. When he
gan the placedo Domine, with all the verses belonging to it :
which are too many to to recite : & as soon as the Dirge was
done, the body was entered, and upon it a fair Marble Stone
laid being polli shed as bright as glasse : in which was in-
graven in great letters this inscription following, COPPELL
Chanteclers daughter whom Reynard the Fox hath slain,
lieth here buried ; Mourn thou that Readest it, For her
death was unjust and lamentable. After this the King sent
for his Lords and wisest Counsellors to consult how this foul
murder of Keynards might be punished. In the end it was
conclued that Reynard should be sent for, & without all ex-
cuse to appear before the King, to answer these trespasses.

of Reynard the Fox.



Should be objected against him, and that this message should be
 delivered by Bruine the Bear: to all this the King gave con-
 sent, & calling him before him said, si Bruine, it's our pleasure
 that you deliver this message, yet in the delivery thereof have
 great regard to your self. so; Reynard is full of policy, and
 knoweth how to dissemble, flatter and betray, he hath a world
 of snares to entangle you in, and without great exercise
 of Judgment, will make a frozen and mock of the best wisdom
 byas

The pleasant History

breaching. *Spz* *Loz* (an were) *fir* *Braine* let me alone with
Reynard, I am not such a truant in discretion to become a
mock to his knavery: and thus full of joy if the Bear de-
parted: if his return be but as joyfull, there is no fear in his
well speaking.

CHAP. 5.

How *Braine* the Bear spied with *Reynard* the Fox



of Reynard the Fox

The next morning away went Bruine the Bear in quest of the Fox armed against all plots of deceit whatsoever, and as he came through a dark Forrest in which Reynard had a qy. path which he used when he was hunted, he saw a high mountain, over which he must passe to go to Malepardus: for though Reynard have many houses yet Malepardus is his chiefest and most ancient Castle, and in it he lay both for defence and ease: Now at last when Bruine was come to Malepardus, he found the gates close shut, at which after he had knocked (sitting on his tale) he called a loud voice Reynard are you at home; I am Bruine your kinsman whom the King hath sent to summon you to the Court, to answer many foul accusations exhibited against you, and hath taken a great vow, that if you fail to appear to this summon that your life shall answer your contempt and your goods and honours shall be confiscate at his Highness mercy Therefore fair kinsman, be advised by your friend, and go with me to the Court to shun the danger that else will fall upon you Reynard lying close by the gate (as his custom was for the warm Sun sake) hearing these words, departed into one of his holes, for Malepardus is full of many intricate and curious Rooms, (which labyrinth-wise he could passe through, when either his danger, or the benefit of any prey required the same) where meditating a while with himself how he might counterplot and bring the Bear to disgrace (whom he knew loved him not) and himself to honour, at last he came forth and said, dear Uncle Bruine you are exceeding welcome Pardon my slowtude in coming; for at your first speech I was saying my evening-song: and devotion must not be neglected; believe me he hath done you no good service nor do I think him which hath sent you this weary and long journey in which your much sweat and toil, far exceeds the worth of the labour: certainly had you not come, I had to morrow been at Court of mine own accord, yet at this time my sorrow is much lessened in as much as your counsel at this present may return me double benefit: Alas Uncle, could his majesty find no meaner a

The plealant History



The Morall.
 When wicked men cannot compass their wickedness by strong hand or violence against their enemies; then they study deceit and shifts to entangle them of al which none is so powerful as the shew of Religion: for their working upon the earle belife of the simple makes
 messenger then your noble self to employ in these trifall affairs & truly it appaers strange to me: especially since next his Royall self: you are of greatest renown both in Blood and Riches: for my part I would we were both at Court, I fear our journey will be exceeding troublesome; for I have eaten such strange new means, that my body is hereby much distempred, and swelleth as if it would break. Alas dear Cousin (said the Bar) what meat is this which makes you so ill? A cle (answered he) what will it profit you to know: the meat was simple and mean: we poor men are no Lords you know, but eat that for necessity: which others eat for intonnesse: yet not to delay you, that which I eat was Hony-combe, great, fat, and most pleasant, which I eat too unmeasurably, and am therefore compelled by hunger. I eat too unmeasurably, and am therefore by infinitely distempred. Ah (quoth Beuine) honey-combe do you make such slight respect of them. Phephen: why it is meat for the granteft Emperant in the world: fat phephen

Of Reynard the Fox.

phes: help me but to some of that honey, and command mee
 whilst I live, for one little part thereof, I will be your servant
 everlastingly. Sure said the Fox (Uncle) you but jest with them many
 me: but jest with you (replied Brother) bestow my heart then times shipped
 for I am in that serious earnest that for one lick thereof you them selves in
 shall make me the fatter. If of all your kindred say (said the to the rough
 Fox, if you be in earnest, then know I will bring you where so here is no
 much is that ten of you shall not be able to devour it at a meal the q but ship-
 only for your love sake which above all things desire Uncle wa ck, as the
 Not ten of us (said the Bear;) it is impossible: for had I all f alish Cock
 the honey betwixt Hibernia and Portugal, yet I could in a short did to believe
 space eat it all my self. When know Uncle (quoth the Fox) also in this a
 that neare at hand here dwel ech a husband man named Lan man may see
 fere, who is master of so much honey, that you cannot consume that though
 in seven yeares which for your love and friendship sake I will
 put into your self possession. Heavie mad upon the honey swage
 that to have but one good meal thereof he would not one y be
 his faithfull friend but all stop the mouths of all his adver-
 saries. Reynard smiling at his own beisse, said, If you will
 have seven times Uncle, you shall have it. These words pleas-
 ed the Bear so well, and made him so pleasant, that he could
 not stand for laughing.

Well thought the Fox, this is good fortune sure I will lead
 him where he shall laugh more measurable: and then said
 Uncle, wee must delay no time, and I will spare no pain for
 your sake which for none of my kin I would performe. The
 Bear gave him many thanks, and so away they went, the
 Fox promising him as much honey as he could bare, but
 meant as many strokes as he could underg: in the end
 the came to Lanfers house the sight whereof made the Bear
 rejoyce. Thus Lanfer was a stout and lusty Carpenter who
 the other day had brought into his parson great Oak, which
 (as their manner is) he began to cleave and had struck into it
 two wedges; in such wise, that the clef stood a great way
 open: at which the Fox rejoyced much: for it was answerable
 to his wish so that with a smiling countenance said to the
 Bear, Behold now dear Uncle, am be careful of your

The plealant mistory

only wounded
and in danger
of his life, but
also made a
mock and scorn
to his enemies
Also by the
cruelty used on
the Bear by
the common
peopl, it shew-
ed how when
an ill man is
once shamed in
his vices how
every one of
what degree
soever from
the highest to
the lowest are
ready to re-
venge them-
selves



self for within this tree is so much honey, that it is unmea-
surable, try if you can get into it, - yet good Uncle eat mode-
rately: for albeit the Combs be sweet and good, yet a surfeit is
dangerous, and may be troublesome to your body, which I
would not for a world, since no harm can come to you, but it
must be my dishonor. For ever let me Paphia Reynard
-say-

of Reynard the Fox

(said the Bear) nor think me such a fool that I cannot temper mine appetite. It is true, my best Uncle, I was too bold, I pray you eater in at the end, and you shall find your desire. The Bear with hast entered the tree, with his two feet & thrust his head into the clef, & stuck over the ears: which when the Fox perceived: he instantly ran and pulled the chew oges out of the tree & so that he lock'd: the Bear at there: in a m then neither flattery nor anger abated the Bear, for the sp. phobbe his deceit had brought the Uncle into so false a prison, that it was impossible by any art to free him'elfe of the same. And what profiteth nobb this great strength and valour? who there were both causes of more vexation, and finding himself destitute of all relief, he began to hobble and creep, and with scratching and tumbling to make such a noise that Lanfert awaked, came hastily out of his house, having in his paw a sharp hawk, whilst the Bear lay wallowing and roaring within the tree, which the Fox a farre off seeing, hee said to the Bear in scorn, is the honie good (Uncle) which



The pleasant History

you cat, Let us for satisfaction look on Reynard and Tibert when with a fierp and angry countenance, in spring Tibert the Cat amongst them, and salting down before the King said My Lord the King, I must confesse the Fox is here grievously complained upon, yet were other Beasts actions searched each would have enough to do for his own clearing, Touching the complaint of Courtie the Hound, it was an offence committed many yeares ago. and though I my self complain of no injury yet was the Pudding mine, and not his, for I got it by night out of a Mill when the Miller lay a sleepe, that if Courtie could challenge any share thereof, it must be from mine interest.

When Panther heard these words of the Cat, he stepped forth and said do you imagine, Tibert, that it were a just or a good course that Reynard should not be complained on? why the whole world knows he is a murderer a rabsiter, and a thief and that indeed he loveth not truly any creature, no not his self, but would suffer his highnesse to lose both Honour and renown, so that he might thereby attaine to himself but so much as the leg of a fat henne: I shall tell you what I saw him do yesterday to Kyward the Hare, that now stands in the Kings protection, he promised unto Kyward that he would teach him his Credo, and make him a good Chapl. in. he made him come sit between his leggs and sing and cry aloud to save her: my way lay thereby, and I heard the song, then coming nearer, I found that Mr. Reynard had left his first note and song, and began to play his old deceipt: for he had caught Kyward by the throat, & had I not at that time come, he had taken his life also, as you may see by the fresh wound on Kyward at this present. My Lord the King let you suffer this unpunished, and let him go guilt that hath thus broken your peace, and profaned your dignity, and doing no right according to the judgment of your Laws, your Prince your children many yeares hereafter shall bear the slander of his evil. Certainly Panther (said he) you say true, and it is fit they receive the heritage of Justice, so let us returne to tell you many Fables & fables were in tell, and in all,

of Reynard the Fox

all, & he has Birkin, and Arme, Ablequake, Bare the Priest
with his staff, and Dame Jullock his wife, all these so be-
laboured the Bear, that his life was in great danger: the poor
Bear in this massacre fare and fighed extremely, groaning
under the burthen of their strokes, of which Lanfers were the
greatest, and thundered most dreadfully, for Dame Podge of
Calpers was his Porter, & his Father was Marobthe Sté-
ple-mager, a passing stout man when he was alone: Bruine
received of him many blowes of stones, till Lanfers Woe,
that rushing before, he rest with a staff, struck the Bear in the
head such a blow, that he could neither hear nor see, so that a-
waking from the agonishment, the Bear leapt into the River
adjoining, through a cluster of trees there standing toge-
ther, of which he threw others into the water, which was
large & deep, amongst whom the Parsons wife was one, which
the Parson seeing how she floated like a swimmer, he left
striking the Bear, and cried to the rest of the company, help
oh help: Dame Jullocke is in the water, help both men & wo-
men, for who so saves her, I give free parson of all their sins
and transgressions, and remit all penance imposed whatsee-
ver: this heard, every one left the Bear to help dame Jullock,
which as soon as the Bear saw, he cut the stream and swam
away as fast as he could, but the Priest with a great noise
pursued him, crying in his rage, Turn tillan, that I may be
redeemed of thee, but the Bear stream in the strength of the
stream, and suspected not his calling, for he was proud that he
was so escaped from them: only he bitterly cursed the Hone-
tree, and the Fox, which had not onely betrayed him, but had
made him lose his bow from his face and his gloves from his
fingers: in this sort he swam some three miles down the wa-
ter, in which time he grew so weary that he went on the land
to get ease, where blood trickled down his face, he groaned
sighes, and drew his breath so short till his last hour had been
expiring: So that whilst these things were in doing, the Fox
in his way home stole a fat Hen, & threw her into his male, &
running thorow a by path that no man might perceive him,
he came towards the River with infinit joy, for he suspected,
that

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that the Bear was certainly slain, therefore said to himself, my fortune is as I mist it, for the greatest enemy I had in the Court is now dead, nor can any man suspect me guilty thereof; but as he spake these words looking towards the River, he espied there Bruine the Bear lay resting, which struck his heart with grief and he talked against Lanfers the Carpenter, saying, Woe is me that thou art, what mad man would have lost such good venison, especially being so fat and wholesome, and so; which he took no pain, for he was taken to his hand; any man would have been proud of the fortune which thou neglectest. Thus fretting and chiding, he came to the River, where he found the Bear all wounded and bloody, of which Reynard was only guilty, yet in scorn he said to the Bear, Monsieur, Dieu vous garde. O thou foul red villaine, said the Bear to himself, what impudence is like this? But the Fox went on with his speech, and said, What Uncle? have you forgot any thing at Lanfers, or have you paid him for the Honey-combs you stole, if you have not, it will rebound much to your disgrace, which before you shall undergo, I will pay him for them my self: sure the honey was excellent good, and I know much more of the same pytes; Good Uncle, tell me before I go, into what order do you mean to enter, that you wear this new fashioned Hood? will you be a Monk, an Abbot, or a Friar? surely he that shaved your crown, hath cropped your ears, also your fore-top is lost, and your globes are gone; hee stolen, go not bare-handed, they say you can sing Peccavi rarely. These taunts made Bruine mad with rage; but because he could not take revenge, he was content to let him talk his pleasure: then after a small rest, he plunged again into the River, and swam below the stream, and landed on the other side, where he began with much grief to meditate how he might get to the Court; for he had lost his ears, his talons, and all the skin off his feet, so that he had a thousand deaths followed him; he could not go, and yet of necessity he must move, that in the end compelled by extremity, he set his buttocks on the ground, and tumbled his body over and over, so by degrees tumbling most half a mile, and then half a mile; in

the end he stumbled to the Court; where others beholding his strange manner of approach, they thought some prodigie had come towards them, but in the end the King knew him, and grew angry, saying, it is Sir Bruine my servant, what villainies have wounded him thus, or where hath he been that he brings his death thus along with him? O my head is over-
raign Lord the King (cried out the Bear) I complain and grievously unto you: behold how I am massacred, which I humble beseech you revenge on that false Reynard, who for doing your royal pleasure, hath brought me to this disgrace and slander. I then said the King, How durst he do this? now by my crown I swear I will take revenge, which shall make the traitors tremble: whereupon the King sent for all his Counsel, and consulted how and in what sort to prosecute against the Fox; where it was generally concluded, that he should be again summoned to appear, and answer his trespasses; and the party to summon him, they appointed to be Tybert the Cat, as well for his gravity as wisdom: all which pleased the King well.

CHAP. 5.

How the King sent Tybert the Cat for Reynard the Fox.

Then the King called for Sir Tibert the Cat, and said to him, Sir Tibert, you shall go to Reynard, and say to him the second time, and command him to appear, and answer his offences; for though he be cruel to other beasts yet to you he is courteous, assure him if he fail at your first summons, that I will take so severe a course against him, and his posterity, that his example shall teach all offenders. When said Tibert the Cat, my dear Lord, they were my foes which thus advised you, for there is nothing in me that can force him either to come or carry: I beseech your Majesty send some one of greater power, I am little and feeble: besides if noble Sir Bruine that is so strong & mighty, could not enforce him, what will my weakness avail; The King replied, It is your task

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The Morall.

As the leading
of the Kitt
teeth the Fox,
is exprest the
care of Govern-
ment, that when
they have been
deceiv'd by the
proud & ostenta-
tion of flesh
as they did
employ, and
thought dis-
creet, that they
may seek out
those that are
known wise, &
employ them;
because wis-
dom: is even
circumvented
by a greater
wisdom, in the
Kitt much
Balthazar go
is exprest, the
unwillingness a
wife man hath
to meddle in
dangerous
matters, especi-
ally when they
hold the party
with whom
they have to
do, of a reach
far beyond
them; yet when
authority com-
mands, they
must obey,
though never
so many dan-
gers attend.

home Sir Tibert, I employ not your strength and many
prowl with Art, when violence saturates with lost labour.
Then, says the Cat, since it is your pleasure, it must be ac-
complish'd, Heaven make my fortune better then my heart
prophageth. Thus Tibert made things to readiness, and went
towards Malaprou, and in his journey, he saw coming
towards him one of Saint Martins Bless, to whom the Cat
cries aloud, Gail gentle bird, I beseech thee turn the wings
and sit on my right hand: but the bird turned the contrary
way, and flew on his left side; then grow the Cat very weary
for he was wise and skillful in Augustin, and knew the sign
to be ominous; nevertheless (as many do) he armed himself
with better hope: and went to Malaprou, who, he found
the For standing before the Castle gates, to whom Tibert says
Gentle to my fair Cousin Reynard: tell him that thy King by
me summons you to the Court, in which if you fail or defer
return, there is nothing more assured unto you, then a cruel and
a sudden death. Who For answered, Welcome dear Cousin
Tibert, I obey your commands, and with my Dogs the King
last night dapes of happiness onely let me intreat you to rest
with me to night, & take such cheer as my simple house affor-
deth, and to Morrow as early as you will, we will go to wards
the Court, for I have no kinsman. I trust so dearly as your
self. For was with me the other day the treacherous Knight
Sir Brains, the Bear, who look'd upon me with the tyrannous
cruelty, that I would not for the wealth of an Empire ha-
zard my person with him, but my dear Cousin, with you I
will go, were it then and sickness upon me. Tibert replied,
You speak like a noble Gentleman, and me thinks it is bet-
ter to go for wards, for the Sun shines as bright as day. My
dear Cousin (said the For) let us take our leave before us, so may
we take our leave with our friends, the night is full of danger, &
suspicious. Well, said the Cat, if it be your pleasure, I am con-
sent, what shall we eat? Reynard said, truly my store is small,
the best I have is a Honey-comb too pleasant and sweet, what
think you of it? Tibert replied, it is meat I little respect as
 seldom eat: I had rather have one spouse, then all the honey

of Reynard the Fox

in Europe. (A Wife said Reynard) why my dear cousin here dwelleth a Piest hard by, who hath a Barn by his house so full of Pice, that I thinke half the Cats in the Parish are not able to eat them. O dear Reynard (quoth the Cat) do but lead me thither, and make me your servant for ever: why (said the Fox) but love you Pice so exceedingly? Beyond expectation (quoth the Cat) why a Wife is beyond Reason of the delicatest eaters on Princes Tables: therefore conduct me thither, and command my friendship in any matter: had you but my Father, my Mother, and all my Kin, I would clearely forgive you,

CHAP. 7.

How Tibert the Cat was deceived by Reynard the FOX.

THE Wife said Reynard, Sure you do but jest. So by my life, said the Cat. Well then (quoth the Fox), if you be in earnest, I will so work that this night I will fill your belly: 'tis not possibly, said the Cat: then follow me said the Fox: for I will bring you to the place presently: thus away they went with all speed to the Piest's Barn, which was well walled about with a mud-wall, where but the night before the Fox had broken in, and stole from the Piest an exceeding fat Hen: at which the Piest was so angry, that he had set a gin or snare before the hole, to catch him at his next coming: which the false Fox knew perfectly, and therefore said to the Cat, O Tibert, creep in at this hole, and believe it you shall not tarry a minutes space, but you shall have more Pice then you are able to devour: Marke, you may hear how they pay: when your belly is full, come again, and I will stay and wait for you here at this hole, that tomorrow we may go together to the Court: but good Good say not too long, for I know, my Wife will hourly expect us. When (said the Cat) think you I may safely enter in at this hole: these Piests are wise and shrewd, as my comb



their danger off close, that rascal: is soon overtaken. My
 cousin Tibert (said the Fox) I never saw you turn coward
 before: what man, fear you a shadow? The Cat ashamed
 at his fear, sprang quickly in at the hole, but was presently
 caught fast by the neck in the Gin, which as soon as the
 Cat felt was perceived, he quickly leapt back again: so that
 the

of Reynard the Fox

the snare running close together, he was half strangled, so that he began to struggle, and cry out, and exclaim most piteously: Reynard stood before the hole and heard all, at which he infinitely rejoiceth, and in great scorn said, Cousin Tybetr, love you *Pixie*? I hope they be well fed for your sake; know the Priest or Martinet of your feasting, I know them of so good disposition, they would bring you sauce quickly; methinks you sing at your meat, is that the Court fashion; if it be, I would begrim the Wolf were coupled with you, that all my friends might be feasted together: but all this while the poor Cat was fast, and mowed so piteously, that Martinet leapt out of his bed, and cried to his people; Arise for the thief is taken that had stoln our Hens: With these words the Priest unfortunately rose up and awaked al in his house, crying; the Fox is taken, the Fox is taken: and arising stark naked, he gabe to Jullock his wife an offering candle to light, and then came first to Tibert, he smore him with a great staffe, and after him many other: so that the Cat received many deadly blows, and the anger of Martinet was so great, that he struck out one of the Cats eyes, which he did, to second the naked Priest, thinking at one blow to dash out the Cats brains; but the Cat perceiving his death so near him, in a desperate mood he leapt between the Priests legs, and with his claws and teeth so fastened on his genitals, that in all the great Furks Seraglio, there was not a clearer Eunuch: which when Dame Jullock his wife saw, she cried out and swooz, she had rather have lost the whole offering of seven years, then that one poor little morsel: and withal curst that ever the grin was invented, and calling Martinet, See, my Son, this thy Fathers delight, and my Jewel, but it is now spoiled, to his shame, and my utter losse for ever: for howsoever he be cured, yet to me he can never more be comfortable. All this while Reynard stood before the hole, and saw what passed, and laughed so extremely, that his body was ready to break, saying to Dame Jullock, His woman, do not torment your self so, the Priest hath lost but one Hone, you may yet receive one benevolence:

The Morall.

By the Fox insinuating of the Katts exprest, how when wise men will trust their enemies, or give credit to reconciled Friends, they evermore miscarry in their designs; and therefore every wise man should be temperate in affections, that he grow not fond of any thing in his enemies power, how agreeable so ever it be either wint his nature, or his power. For the bait; of an enemy are only gilded pills, which are fair to look on, but most bitter to taste. By the mischief which the Priest received, is shewed, that they which harm warch, harm catch, and that

The pleasant History



violence: there is many a Chappel in which but one Bell
rings, *How* whilst the Fox thus scoffed the *Priest's* Wife,
the *poor* Priest fell down in a swoon: so that every man
left the Cat, to rebuke the *Priest*: whilst whilst they were
doing, the Fox returned home to Malepardus, for he imagi-
ned the Cat was past all hope to escape: but the *poor* Cat
sawing

of Reynard the Fox.

Taking all her foes busie about the Preest, he presently began to gnaw and bite the cord, till he had breared it quite asunder in the midst: which done, he leapt out of the hole, and went roaring and tumbling (like the Bear) to the Kings Court. But before he got thither, it was fair day, and the Sun being risen he entered the Court like the pitifull, & beast that ever was beheld; For by the Forces craft his body was beaten and bruised, his bones shivered and broken, one of his eyes lost, and his skin rent and mangled. When the King beheld, and saw Tiber so pitifully mangled, he grew infinitely angry, and took counsel once more how to revenge the injuries upon the Fox. After some consultation, Grimbard the Wock, Reynards Sisters son, said to the rest of the Kings counsel, My good Lords, though my Uncle were twice so evil as these complaints make him, yet there is remedy enough against his mischiefs: therefore it is fit you do him justice as to a man of his rank, which is, he must be third time summoned, and then if he appear not, make him guilty of all that is laid against him. When the King demanded of the Wock, whom he thought fittest to summon him or who would be so desperate to hazard his hands, his ears, nay his life with one so tyrannous and treacherous? Truly answered the Wock if it please your Majesty I am that desperate person, who dare adventure to carry the message to my most subtil Winkman if your Highness but command me.

CHAP. 14.

How Grimbard the Wock was sent to bid the Fox to the Court.

Then said the King, Go Grimbard, I command you, yet take heed of Reynard for he is subtil and malicious. The Wock thanked his Majesty, and so taking humble leave went to Malepards, where he found Reynard & Ermelin his wife, sporting with their young whelps, then having saluted his Uncle and his Aunt, he said: Take heed fair Uncle, that
your

The pleasant Hiltory

The Moral.

In the sending
of the Brock
to fetch the
Fox, is shewed
that when the
vitions cannot
be overtaken
and brought to
answer, then it
is meet to use
their own
weapons a-
gainst them, &
with policy,
which can no
way be better
done then by
employing
their kindred,
and such as
they must
dearly affect to
peruade them
because at-
tention is ever a
prevailing O-
rator.

your absence from the Court, add not moze mischief to your
cause, then the offence both deserue: be seere it is high time
you appear to the Court, since your delay doth beget but
moze danger & punishment: the complaints against you are
infinite, & this is your third time of summons therefore your
wisdom may tell you, that if you delay but one day further



of Reynard the Fox

there is no left to you or yowes any hope of mercy, for within
thre days your Castle will be demolished, yowr knyghts made
slaves, and your self exempted for a publick example. Where
fore my best Uncle, I beseech you recolle at your wisdom
go with me presently to the Court I doubt not but your dis-
cretion shall excuse you; for you have past therow many as
eminent perills and made your tocs ashamed, whilst the Inno-
cence of your cause hath kept you spotles from the Tribunal
Reynard answered; I know you say true and I will be
advised and go with you, not so as for offences but in that I
know the Court stands in need of my counsell: the Kings
mercy I doubt not, if I may come to speak with his Majestie
though mine offences were times doubled, for I know the
Court cannot stand without me, and that shall his Highness
understand truly; though I know I have many enemies, yet
it troubles me not, for my innocence shall awaken their in-
juries, and they shall know that in high matters of State and
policy, Reynard cannot be missing: they may well harp upon
things, but the pith and ground must come from my relation:
if it is the envy of others hath made me leave the Court, for
though I know their shallownesse cannot disgrace me yet may
their multitudes oppresse me: neverthlesse my nephew, I wil
go with you to the Court and answer for my self, and not ha-
zard the welfare of my Wife and Children, the King is too
mighty, and though he do me injurie, yet wil I bear it with
patience. This spake, he turned to his wife & said dame Er-
melin have care of my children, specially Reynard my young-
est son for he had much of iode, and I hope wil follow my
step, also Rossel is passing hopeful, and I love them int rely
therefore regard them and if I escape, doubt not but my love
shall requite you. At this leave taking Ermelin wept and her
children bowed for their Lord and victualler was gone and
Malepardus left unprotected.

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CHAP. 9.

How Reynard throve himself to Grimbard the Brock,

the Morall.

The Thrift of
the Fox shew-
eth, that when
evill men are
in danger, then
they ever find
most religion,
and by a shew
of a patience,
win pity from
those that dive
not into the
depth of their
deceit & kna-
very, whereby
though they
believe so e-
vill, yet they
get a good
name and steal
opinion of the
multitude. By
the also union
which the
Brock gave
the Fox, is
shewed, how
easily and ho-
nest simple
man may be
brought to be-
lieve a knaves
pauence,
and how

When Reynard and Grimbard had gone a good way on
that journey, Reynard stayed and said Dear Brother,
blame me not if my heart be full of care, for my life is in
great hazard, yet to blot out my sins with repentance and to
cast off the burthen, give me leave to shew my self into you;
I know you are holy, and having received penance for my
sin, my soul will be quiet. Grimbard bade him proceed. When
said the Fox, Comfort your ribs pater, For said the Brock if you
will shew to me, do it in English, that I may understand
you: Then said Reynard, I have grievously offended a Priest
all the Beasts that live, & especially mine Uncle Bruine the
Bear, whom I lately massacred; and Tiber the Cat whom I
ensnared in a grin; I have trespassed against Chanticleer &
his children, and have deboured many of them; nay the King
hath not been quit of my malice for I have slandered him and
his Queen I have betrayed Isegrim the Wolf, and called him
Blasphemous of Elman, where I became also one of the order,
only to do him open mischief, I made him bind his feet to the
bel-rope to teach him ring, but the peal has like to have cost
him his life, the men of parish beat & wounded him so sore:
after this I taught him to catch fish, but he was cunningly be-
trayed therefore, and sealeth the strips at the instaw. I led him
to steal Bacon at a rich Priests house, where he was for-
treamed, that not being able to get out, where he got in I at-
tacked all the Town upon him; and then went where the Priest
was set at meat with a fat Hen before him: watch Hen I
snatched away so that the Priest cried out, kill the Fox for
never man saw thing so strange, that the Fox should come
into my house and take my meat from before me.

This is a boldness beyond knowledge: with these words
he threw his knife at me, but ye misdeed me, and I ran away
whilſt

of Keynard the Fox.



sp: they are to
forgive tref-
passes on lain-
ed for ow,
which indeed
should not be
done without
a more stid
& severe exa-
mination. The
Foxes leading
the Brock by
the Monastrey
and taking the
Capon, shew-
ed that where
wickedness is
recoed and
made as it
were a hafard,
that there not-
withstanding
all hypocritic,
will still flith
out, & a knife
in despite of
all perswasions
& good coun-
sell.

that he pursues me crying, But the Fox, Kill the Fox, and
after him a multitude of people to whom I led to the place where
heerion was, and there I let my Hen fall, for it was in hea-
vy for me (yet in ch against my will) and the springing
through a hole I got into safety. Now as the Priest took
up the Hen, he espied heerion, and then cryed out, Strike

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friends, strike, here is the Wolf, by no means let him escape us: Then 5 people came altogether with clubs, and staves, and with a dreadful noise, giving the poor Wolf many deadly blows, and some throwing stones after him, hit him such mortall blows on the head, that the Wolf fell down as if he had been dead, w^h perceived, they took him and dragg'd him by the

of Reynard the Fox

the heels ouer stocks & stone, and in the end threld him into a ditch without the widdage, and there he lay all night, but how he got thence I know not. Another time I led him to a place where I told him were seven hens & a Cock, set on a pearch all lustie and fat, and hard by the place stood a faile dooz, on which he climbed: then I told him if he would creep in at the dooz, he would find the hens. When I segim with much joy went laughing to the dooz, and entering in a litle, and groping about, he said, Reynard you abuse me; for here is nothing; then replied I uncle, they are farther; and if you will have them, you must adventure for them; those which used to sit there, I my self had long since: at this the Wolf got a litle further I gave him a push for ward, so that he fell down into the house and his fall was so great, and made such a noise that they which were asleep in the house, awaked, and cried, that something was fallen down at the trap-dooz, whereupon they arose and lighted a candle, crying him they beat and wounded him to death. Thus I brought the Wolf to many hazards of his life, more then I can now either remember or reckon, which as they come to my mind, I will reveal to you hereafter, I have also grieuously offended agat. A same Arsewind his Wife, of which I must repent me, for it was highly to her dishonour. Uncle, said Grimbard, I understand you not, you make your thurst imperfect, for you say you have offended, but declare not in what. Pardon me Nephew, I know you hate to hear dishonour of women: the truth is, I have lapyen with her: Thus have I told you my wickedness, now order my penance as shall seem fit in your discretion. Grimbard was both learned and wise, and therefore brake a rod from a tree, and said, Nephew, you shall three times strike your body with this rod, and then lay it down upon the ground, & spring three times ower it without bowing of your leggs, or stumbling: then shall you take it up, and kiss it gently, in sign of weakness and obedience to your penance: which done you are absolved of your sins committed to this day, for I pronounce unto you clear remission. At this the Fox was exceeding glad, and then Grimbard said unto him; so that hence
forth

The pleasant History

forth Uncle you do good works, read your Psalter, go to Church, fast vigils, keep holie days, geve almes, and leave your sinful and evil life, your theft and your treason, and then no doubt you shall attain me. *cr.* The Fox promises to perform all this, and so they went together towards the Court, but a little besides the way as they went stood a restous house of Punks, where many Geese, Hens, and Capons went without the wall: & as they went talking the Fox led Grimbert out of his right way to that place, & finding the Pullain waiking without the Earn, amongst which was a fat young Capon, which strayed a little from his fellows: at which he suddenly leapt and caught him by the feathers, which flew about his ears; but the Capon escaped: which Grimbert seeing, said, Accursed man, what wiles do, wilt thou for a silly Pullet fall again into all your sins: mischiefs it self would not do it: to which Reynard answered, pardon me, dear Stephen: I had forgotten my self, but I will ask forgiveness, and mine eye shall no more wander: & then they turned over



of Reynard the Fox

all the while: but the Fox still glanced his eye towards the Pullain, and could by no means refrain it, for the ill that was bred in the bones, still stick in the flesh, and his mind carried his eyes that way as long as he could see them: which the Wreck noting said, fie, dissembling Cousin, why wander your eyes so after the Pullain? The Fox replied, Nephew, you do me injurie so to mistake me, for mine eyes wandred not, but I was saying a paeer Noller for the souls of all the Pullain and Gase which I have slain and betrayed, in which devotion you blinded me, Well said Grimbard, it may be so, but your glances are suspicious. Now by this time they were come into the way again, and made halt towards the Court, which as soon as the Fox saw, his heart quaked for fear: for he knew well the Crimes he was to answer for, were infinite and heinous.

CHAP. 10,

How the Fox came to the Court, and how he excused himself.

AS soon as it was bruted in the Court, that Reynard the Fox & Grimbard his kinsman were arrived there, every one from the highest to the lowest prepared himself to complain of the Fox: at which Reynards heart quaked, but his countenance kept the old garb, & he went as proudly as ever he was wont with his Nephew through the high street. and came as gallantly into the Court, as if he had been the Kings Son, and as clear from misdeeds as the most innocent whose ever. When he came before the chair of State in which the late late he said Heaven give your Majesty glory & renown above all the Princes in the earth: I assure your Highness, there was no other King had a truer servant then my self have been to you, & perill me, & so will die: Nevertheless, my Lord, I know there be many in this Court that seek my confusion, if they could win belief at your Majesty, but your own the standers of malice, and although in these

The pleasant History



The Morall.

In the Foxes
appearing as
the Court, is
shewed, that
when a male-
factor is
brought be-
fore the Ju-
stice that then
is the fit time
for all men
that have been
injured, to ur-
ter their com-
plaints, because
then onely Je-

dayes flatterers have the most room in Princes Court, yet
with you it is not so, no; shall they reap any thing but shame
for their labour. But the King cut him short at these words,
and said, Weace, I apterous Reynard, I know your dissimu-
lation, and can repound your flattery, but both shall now fail
you: Think you I can be caught with the Puslick of your
words?

of Reynard the Fox

words? no it hath too oft deceived me: the peace which I dress is to be
 commanded and sworn unto, that have you broken. And as ^{had. In the Ly-}
 he would have gone forward Chanteclere crying out, ^{on is expect} how
 have I lost this noble peace? We still Chanteclere ^{the lawfulness}
 (sings) and then he proceeded, thou Devil among good ones, ^{of Justice,}
 with what face canst thou say thou lovest me, and seest all ^{how terrible,}
 those wretched creatures ready to disprove thee, ^{to every offen-}
 wounds yet spilt bloody defiance upon thee: and for which, ^{der, especially}
 lie be thy dearest life shall answer. In nomine Patris, &c. said conscience
 the Fox, my dear Lord, if Broines crown be bloody, ^{within them,}
 that to me? if your majesty implored him in a message, ^{The Foxes}
 he would neglect it to steal honey at the carpenters house, ^{bold behavior}
 he received his wounds, how shall I amend it? if revenge be prudent male-
 fount, it was not for to be sought for at my weakness. As for ^{shows, that im-}
 Tybert the Cat (whom I received with all friendship) if ^{factors, when}
 gat: if my will or advice will steal into the Priests barn, ^{they are called}
 cat: if he and there lose his eyes, may his life, ^{in question,}
 mine offence or how become I their guardian? O my dread ^{make audacity}
 Lord, you may do your royal pleasure, and how ever mine ^{of their chief}
 innocence please yet your will may adjudge me to what death ^{issu'd, and by}
 contents you: I am your vassal, and have no support but the looseness ^{railing, against}
 your mercy. I know your strength and mine own weakness, ^{their Adver-}
 and that my death can yield you but small satisfaction, yet ^{ties, do seek}
 whatsoever you will is, that to me shall be most acceptable. ^{of their offen-}
 As he thus spake, Bliu the Ram step forth and his Cwe ^{ces, but wuch}
 dame Owey, and besought the King to hear their com- ^{and Justice}
 plaint; with them Bruine the Bear and all his mighty lin- ^{will not be}
 age: and Tybert the Cat, Nigrim the Wolf, Kyward the ^{hoodwink'd.}
 Hare, and Panther, the Boze, the Cammel and Bruel the
 Gase, the Cid and the Goat. Bauldwin the Ase, Borrel the
 Will and Hamel the Dr, the Mafel, Chanteclere the Cock
 and Parler with his Children. All these with one entree
 noise cried out against the Fox, and so moved the King with
 these complaints, that the Fox was taken and arrested,

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CHAP. II.

How the Fox was arrested and Judged to death.

UPon this arrest a Parliament was called, & every voice
gave that Reynard should be executed: notwithstanding
he answered every objection severally, though great Art
was used both in the one and the other; so the wonderful ad-
miratation of all that heard him; but witnesses examined, and
every proof made pregnant, the Fox was condemned & judg-
ment was given that he should be hanged till his body were
dead. At which sentence the Fox cast down his head, for all
his Jullity was lost and no flattery nor fair words now aban-
doned. This done, Grimbold his Nephew, and diverse oth-
ers near him in blood (which could not endure to see him dye) took
their leave of the King & departed from the Court. When the
King saw what gallant young Gentlemen departed thence,
all sad and weeping, being near of the Foxes blood & alliance
he said to himself, It behoveth us to take good and mature
counsel, though Reynard have some faults, yet he hath many
friendes, and more virtues. As the King was thus thinking,
the Cat said to the Bear, Sir Bruin and you Sir Ilegrim, why
are you so slow in this Execution? the Green is a most comely
here be many bushes and hedges, if he escape and quit himself
of this danger, his subtilty is so great, that not all the Art in
the world shall never again intangle him: if you mean to exe-
cute him, then proceed, for before the Gallows can be made it
will be dark night. At these words Ilegrim remembering him-
self, said, There is a pair of Gallows near at hand (and with
that fetched a deep sigh) which the Cat noting, said, Are you
afraid Sir Ilegrim, or is this Green too against our mind?
you may remember that it was once his work, that both
your brethren were hanged, and sure had you not mist you
would thank him for the same, and not thus stand trifling
time, But Ilegrim half angry answered, our anger puts out
the eye of your reason, yet had we a halter that would fit his
neck

of Reynard the Fox

neck, we would son dispatch him, Reynard that hath been
 U. eat a great while, said I beseech you shorten my pain, Sir



Tybert, hath a Cord strong enough. in which himself was
 hanged at the Priests house, when he bit off the Priests gent-
 les, besides he can climb well and swift: O let him be mine

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The Moral. Executioner, for it next bet becometh Ilegrim nez Bruine thus
 By the violence of the violence of the Bear, the Wolf and the Cat, impetu-
 of the Bear, the Wolf and the Cat, impetu-
 ing the Fox to wate I escape not: you say well said Bruine, and it is the best
 death, and making themselves executioners, is shewed the great malice of
 against their enemies, such from whom they have received mischief
 in which they wil many time rather hazard their honors: then their re-
 venger so blind is wrath, and so deformed it makes me: that are cleared therewith. The
 Fox: patience and mild temper, shews, that
 when men are in extremity, they must make use of all their
 virtues, especially meekness, for what soonest doth
 infirmate with mens natures
 draws forth pitty, whereas roughness ever
 increaseth mischief.

to do to their Neppew: I am sorry I like to see it. But since
 you are set to be my hangmen, play your parts and delay not,
 so before Buine, and lead my way; solem Ilegrim, and be-
 ware I escape not: you say well said Bruine, and it is the best
 counsel I have heard you give. So forth they went and Ileg-
 grim and all his friends guarded the Fox, lead me him by the
 neck, and other parts of his body: when the Fox felt this
 usage, he was dismayed yet said: Why do you put your selves
 (my best kinsmen) to this pain, to do me hurt? believe it. I
 could well ask you forgiveness, though my pains be pleasant
 unto you, yet well I know, do my Aunt, your wife and I
 of my trouble, she would for old affection sake not see me thus
 tormented: But I am subject to your will and can endure
 your worst malice: as for Bruine and Tybert, I leave my re-
 venge to Justice, and wish you t. a reward of Traitors, if
 you do not to me the worst of your powers, I know my worst
 fortune, and death can come but once unto me; I wish it were
 past already, for to me it is no terror: I saw my Father die,
 and how quickly he vanished; therefore the worst o. death is
 familiar unto me. When said Ilegrim, let us go for his curse
 shall not light on me by delaying: So on one side Bruine
 on the other, led the poor Fox to the Gallows; Tybert running
 before with the halter, hoped to be revenged of his wrongs
 formerly received. When they were come to the place of Ex-
 ecution, the King and Queen, and all the rest of the Polity,
 took their places to see the Fox die. Then Reynard full of sor-
 row and busily betinking himself how he might escape that
 danger, and how to incheal & disgrace his proud enemies, and
 so how to draw the King on his part, saying to himself,
 Though the King & many others be offended with me as they
 have reason, so, I have thoroughly deserved it, nevertheless yet
 I hope to live to be their best friend: During this meditation
 the Wolf said: Sir Bruine, now remember your injuries, and
 take your revenge in a full measure, for the day is come we wish
 for, Tybert ascend quickly and bring the rope to the Gallows,
 making a running noyse, for this day you shall have your
 to, ll

of Reynard the Fox

will of your enemy: and good Sir Bruine take heed he escape not, whilst I my self rafe up the Ladder. When all things were prepared, the Fox said, Now may my heart be heavy for Death stand: now in all his horror before me, and I cannot escape, my dear Lord the King, and you my Moberaign Lady the Queen, & you my Lords that stand to behold to see me dye, I beseech you grant me this charitab e W e n, that I may unlock my heart before you, and clear my soul of her burthen, so that hereafter no man may be blamed for me: which done my death will be easy, and the assistance of your prayers will raise my soul to heaven.

CHAP. 12.

How Reynard made his Confession before the King.

Every Creature now took compassion on the Fox, and said his request was small beseeching the King to grant it: which was done, and then the Fox thus spake: Help me, heaven: for I see no man here whom I have not offended; yet was this evill no naturall inclination in me, for in my youth I was accounted as virtuous as any breathing: this know, I have played with the Lambs all day long, and took delight in their prattling bleating: yet at last in my play I bit one, and the taste of the blood was so sweet, that since I could never forbear it; This liquefied humour drew me into he woods amongst the Goats, where hearing the bleating of the little Kids, I slew one of them, and after two more, which slaughter made me so hardy, that then I fell to murdering Hens, Cocks, and other Poultry. And thus my crimes increased by custome, and furie so possess me, that all was Fish which came to my net, After this in the winter season, I met with Hegrim, whereas he lay hid under a hollow tree, and he unfolded unto me how he was my Uncle, & laid the Pedegree down so plain, that from that day forth we became fellows and companions: which knot of friendship I may ever curse, for then began the flood of our thefts and slaughters,

he

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he stole the great things, & the small, he murdered Nobles, &
the meaner Subjects: and in all our actions his share still



was ever the greatest: when he got a Ram, a Calf, or a
Sheep, his fare would barely afford him the means to pick
on: nay when he had an Ox, or a Cow, after himself, his
wife

of Reynard the Fox.

wise and his seven children were served, nothing remained to me but the bare bones to pick on. This I speak not in that I wanted (for it is well known I have more plate, Jewels, and coin, then twenty Carts are able to carry) but onely to shew his ingratitude. When the King heard him speak of this infinite treasure and riches, his heart grew inflamed with a desire thereof; and he said Reynard, where is that treasure you speak of? The Fox answered, My Lord, I shall singly tell you, for it is true, the wealth was stolen, and had it not been it in that manner as it was it had cost your Highness your life (whch heavers I beseech keep ever in that protection.) When the Queen heard that dangerous speech, she started, and said, What dangers are these you speak of Reynard? I do command you upon your souls health, to unfold these doubtful speeches, and to keep nothing concealed which concerns the life of my deare Lord. The Fox with a sorrowful and sad countenance replied to the Queen, O my dear Sovereign Lady, at what infinite ease were I, if I might be at this present? but gracious God, your conjuration and the health of mine own soul so prevaileth with me, that I will discharge my conscience; and yet speak nothing but what I will make good with the hazard of my damnation. It is true, the King should have ben pitiously murdered by his own people, and I must confess by those of my dearest knownes, whom I am unwilling to accuse, did not the health of my own soul, and the fealty to the King command the contrary: The King much perplext at this discovery, said: Is this true Reynard, which you protest? The Fox answered; Alas, my deare Lord, you see the case wherein I stand, and how small a stand is left in my poor glass to run: Can your Majesty imagine I will now dissemble? What can the whole world avail me, when my soul perissheth? and at that he trembled and looked so pitifully, that the Queen had great compassion of him, and humbly besought the King for the safety of his own Royal person, to take some pity of the Fox, and to command all his subjects to hold their peace, and keep silent till he had spoke the uttermost of his knowledge:

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The first

By the Boxes
collection and
a collection of
his enemies, is
expelled a
diseased sub-
stancy in the
Fox: Forth, by
his voluntary
confession of
his faults, is
showed his for-
row for their
same, and the
little hope he
had of life,
which piercing
into the weak
nature of the
Queen, being a
woman and
subject to pity
begot in such
compassion to-
wards him. 2.
The accusing
of a rose whom
he was known
most assuredly
to love, was a
means to draw
he set to that
he spoke, 3.
The ingaging
of the life of
the King, and
making the
case so foul
was to say, to
asphyxiate
the Queen, and
others of the
reindeers of
the King, and
to say, and
to say, and

all which was presently done, and the Fox proceeded in this
manner: Since it is the pleasure of my Sovereign Lord the
King, and that his royal life lyeth in the balance with my
present death, I shall freely and boldly unfold this Capital &
feul treason, and in the re-ason not spare any guilty person
for any respect whatsoever, whether it be blood, greatness, or
author ty: know then, my dread Sovereign Lord the King,
that my father by a strange accident, digging in the ground,
found out King Eremerick's treasure, being a mass in white
and innumerable, of which being posses, he grew so proud &
haughty: that he held in scorn all the Beasts of the Wilder-
ness, which before had been his men and companions; at
last he caused Tybert the Cat to go into the best Forest of
Arden to Bruine the Bear, and to tender to him his homage
and fealty saying; if it would please him to be King, he should
come into Flanders, where he would shew him means how to
set the Crown upon his head. Bruine was glad of this Em-
bassage (for he was exceedingly ambitious; and had long thirst-
ed for Sovereignty) and the cupen came into Flanders,
where my father received him nobly. When presently he sent
for his wife, Grimbard my stepmother, and for Hegrim the
Wolf, and for Tybert the Cat: then these five coming be-
foren Gauns, and the village called Elfe, they held a solemn
Council for the space of a whole night: in which by the as-
sistance of the Devil, and the strong confidence of my fathers
relatives, it was there concluded, that four of us should be
sent forth with murder, which to effect, they took a solemn oath,
in this manner: The Bear, my Father Grimbard, and the
Cat, laying their hands on Hegrim's Crown, (whose first
to make Bruine their King, & to place him in the chair of State
at Acon, and to set the Imperial Diadem on his head: and if
by any of your Estates blood and assistance they should be
gained, that then my father with his treasure should hire
those which should utter & chase and rot them out of the For-
est. Now after this determination held and finished, it hap-
pened that my stepmother Grimbard being on a time high down
with the Fox, he discovered this damnable plot to damage Sle-
pard

of Reynard the Fox

pard his wife comma. des her upon her life to keep secret the same; but she forgetful of her charge, disclosed it in confest-
on to my wife as they went a Pilgrimage over a Heath, like
like conjuration of screech; but she (woman like) contained
it no longer than till she met me, and gave me a full know-
ledge of all that passed; yet so, as by all means I must keep it
secret too: for she had sworn by the three Kings of Cullen
never to disclose it: and withal, she gave me such a charge
by certain tokens, that I right well found all was true which
she had spoken, inasmuch, that the very affright thereof made
my hair stand upright, and my heart became like Lead, cold
and heavy in my bosom, which made me call to mind the sto-
ry of the Frogs, who being free without subjection, complain-
ed to Iupiter, and desired they might have a King to rule and
govern over them, and he presently sent them a Toad, which
eat and devoured them up: so that by his tyranny they became
the most miserable of all creatures; then they complained a-
gain to Iupiter for redress, but it was then too late, for they
that could not be content with their freedom, must now of
necessity suffer in thralldom.

Thus I feared it might happen with us, and thus I sor-
rowed for your Majesty, although you little respect my grie-
ving: I know the ambition of the Bear, and his tyranny is
so great; that should the Government come into his hands,
(as heaven forbid) the whole Common wealth will be de-
stroyed: Besides, I know your Majesty of so royal and
 princely birth: so mighty, so gracious, and so merciful, that
it had been a damnable exchange, to have seen a ravenous
Bear to sit in the Throne of a royal Lion; for here is in the
Bear and in his generation more prodigall looseness and in-
constancy, then in any Beast what ever. But to proceed
from this sorrow, I began to meditate how I might undo my
Fathers false and wicked confederacies, who sought to bring a
base Traitor, and a slave into the throne of our Father: for I well
perceived as long as he held the Treasure, there was a possi-
bility, of disposing your Majesty, and this troubled my thought
exceedingly, so that I laboured how I might find out where

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his own desire my fathers Treasure was his, and to that end I watcht and
will make him credit, and attended night and day in the Woods, in the Bushes, and in
credit, and where such credit is given there commonly the wicked
ly the wicked escape from punishment, as here it fell out
with the Fox.



the open fields: nay, in all places wheresoever my father had
his eyes, there was I ever watching and attending. Now it
happened on a time as I was laid down flat on the ground, I

late

of Reynard the Fox.

saw my father come running out of a hole, and anon as he
 was come out, he gazed round about him, to see if any offco-
 tured him; then seeing the coast clear, he stopped the hole
 with his taint, and made it so even, smooth, and plain, that no
 curious eye could discern a difference betwixt it and the other
 earth: and where the print of his foot remained, that with his
 tail he stroked over; and with his mouth so smoothed it, that
 no man might perceive it: and indeed that and many other
 subtilities I learned of him there at that instant: when he had
 thus finished, away he went to towards the village about his
 private affairs; then went I presently towards the hole, and
 not without standing all his subtilty I quickly found out, then
 entered I the Cave where I found that innumerable quanti-
 ty of treasure, which cannot be expressed: which found I took
 Ermelin my wife to help me, and we cast not day nor night,
 with infinite great toyle a labor, to carry and convey away this
 treasure to another place, much more convenient for us,
 where we kept it safe from the search of any creature. Now
 during the time that my wife and I were thus employed, my
 father was in consultation with the rest of the beasts, about
 the death of the King: in which consultation it was conclu-
 ed, that Isegrim the Wolf should travaill over all the King-
 dom, and promise to all Beasts that would take wages, and
 acknowledge Bruine for their sovereign, and defend his title,
 a full years pay before hand. And in this journey my father
 accompanied him, carrying letters patents signed to that pur-
 pose, little suspecting that he was robbed of the wealth which
 should supply his treason: When this negotiation was fin-
 ished betwixt Elve and Soam, and a world of vallant souldiers
 raised against the beginning of the next spring: then they re-
 turned to Bruine and his consort, to whom they declared the
 many perills they had escaped in the Dukedom of Saxony;
 where they were pursued by Huntsmen and Hounds, so as
 they hardly escaped with life: after this relation they shewed
 Bruine the manner of his, which pleased him exceeding much,
 for there was of Isegrims hireage about twelve hundred
 shorn in the Nations, besides the Wars own kindred,

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the Foie, the Cat, and the Daffens, all which would be in reason upon an hours warning. All this I found out (I praise heaven) by perfect intelligence: now things being brought to perfection, my father went to his Cave of treasures: but when he found it open spoiled, and ransacked, it is not in me to express the infinite agony and sorrow he fell into, by grief converting to madness, and madness to despair, on: and suddenly he went to the next Tree and hanged himself.

Thus by my Art only was the treason of Bruine defeated, for which I now suffer: from hence sprang all misfortune as thus: These some Traptors Bruine and Isegrim, being of the Kings privatest Counsel, and sitting in high and great authority, tread upon me poor Reynard, and took my disgrace: notwithstanding for your Majesties sake, I have lost my natural Father. O my dear Lord: what is he, or who can tender you a better affection, thus to lose himself to save you? The King and Queen having great hope to get this inestimable treasure from Reynard, took him from the Gibbet, and increased him to unfold where this great treasure was. But the Fox replied, O my Lord, shall I make mine Enemies my Friends? Shall these Traptors which take away my life, and would devour you, be possessors of the good I enjoy? No, that's a madness I'll never be guilty of. When said the Queen, fear not Reynard, the King shall save your life, and grant you pardon, and you shall henceforth swear Faith and true Allegiance to his Majesty. The Fox answered: Dearst Ma'am, if the King out of his Royal nature will give credit to my oath, and forgive my former offences. There was never King so rich as I will make him. When the King smiling said: Ma'am, will you believe too? Fox knew you not that it is his natural quality to lye, flatter, and deceive? The Queen answered: My dear Lord, now you may boldly believe him: for whosoever in his proportion he was full of errors, yet now you may see he is changed: why he spurs not to accuse his own Father, nay Grimbold his dearest nephew and kinsman; but he is assembled, he might

of Reynard the Fox

habe laide his imputations on other Beasts, and not on those he loved most intirely. Well Madam, said the King, you shall at this time rule me, and all the offences of the Fox, I will clearly pardon: yet with this Protestation, that if ever again he offend in the smallest crime what so ever, that not onely himself, but his whole generation I wil utterly root out of my Dominions. The Fox looked sadly when the King spake thus, but was inwardly most reassaiesly glad at his heart, and said, My dread Lord, it were a huge shame in me, should I speak any untruths in this great presence.

When the King taking a straw from the ground pardoned the Fox of all his trespasses, which either he or his Father had ever committed: If the Fox now began to smile it was no wonder, the sweetness of life required it: yet he fell down before the King & Queen, & humbly thanked them for their mercy, protesting that for that favour he would make them the richest Prince in the World. And at these words the Fox took up a straw, and presented it unto the King, and said to him; my dread Lord, I beseech your Majesty to receive this pledge as a surrender unto you: Majesty of all the Treasure that the great King Emerick was master of, with which I freely incoste you out of my meer voluntarie and free motion. At these words the King received the straw, & smiling, gave the Fox great thanks for the same. But the Fox laughed out right to think of the abuse. From that day forward no mans counsel prevailed with the King as the Foxes, which the Fox seeing, said to the King, My gracious Lord, you shall understand, that at the West side of Flaunders there standeth a Wood called Hutterloe, neer which runneth a River named Crokepit, this is a Wilderness so vast, and unparkable, that hardly in all the year there cometh either man or woman in, the same. In it I have hid this Treasure. Whither I would have your Majesty and the Queen to go, for I know none but your selves whom I dare trust in so great a deluge: and when your Highness cometh thither, you shall find two Whitchin Trees growing by the side, into which you shall enter, and there you shall find the treasure,

which

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which consisteth of the Court, rich Jewels, and the wealthy
 Crown which King Ermerick wore. With which Crown
 Ruine the Beast should have been Crowned, if his treason
 had succeeded according to his determination: Where shall
 you see also many rich and costly precious Stones, of which
 token you are possessed, then remember the love of your servant
 Reynard. The King answered, Sir Reynard, you must your
 self help to dig for this Treasure, for else I shall never find
 it. I have heard named Paris, London, Acon, and Cullen,
 but Crekenpit I never heard off: Wherefore I fear you dis-
 semble. The Fox blushed at those words, yet with a bold
 countenance he said: Is your Majesty so doubtfull of my
 faith? Nay then I will prove my words by publick testi-
 mony: and with that he called forth Reynard the Hare from
 amongst the rest of the Beast, and commanded him to come
 before the King, charging him upon his faith and allegiance
 which he bore to the King and Queen to answer truly to such
 questions as he should ask him. The Hare answered, I will
 speak truth in all things, though I were sure to dye for the same.
 When the Fox said: Knows you not where Crekenpit lies,
 or there? Yes said the Hare, I have known many time this dozen
 years, it stands by in a Wood called Hutterloe, upon a hill
 and wide wilderness, where I have endured much torment
 both of Hunger and Cold: Besides, it was there where our
 Father Simony the Fryer made false Coin, with which he
 supported himself and his fellows. Yet that was before I
 and Ring the Hound became Companions. Well said the
 Fox, you have spoken sufficiently; go to your place again:
 so away went the Hare. Then said the Fox, My Sovereign
 Lord the King, what lay you now to my relation, am I
 worthy of your belief or no? the King said, Yes Reynard,
 and I beseech thee excuse my jealousies, it was my ignorance
 which did thee evil: therefore forthwith make preparation
 that we may go to the pit where this Treasure lieth. The
 Fox answered, Alas my Lord do you imagine that I would
 faine go with you; If it were so that I might go without
 your dishonour, which I cannot do; For you shall under-
 stand

of Reynard the Fox.

stand. (though it be my disgrace) that when I sign the Wolf
in the Devils name, should needs grow religious and turn a
Doe: that then the permission of meat which was for Sir
Spence, was too little for him alone. Whereupon he com-
plained so pitifully unto me, that I considering his case,
(being my kinsman) gave him counsel to run away which he
did: Whereupon I stand accursed, and excommunicated un-
der the Popes sentence and am determined to morrow to follow
as I should, to take my way towards Rome to be ab-
solved, and from Rome I intend to cross the Seas to the holy
Land: & will never return again to my native Country, till I
have done so much good, and satisfied for my sins; that I may
with honor & reputation attend on your Highness's person.
The King hearing this, said: since you stand accursed in the
censure of the Church, I may not have you about me, & there-
fore I will at this time take Reynard the Fox, and some o-
thers with me to Crekenpit: and only command you Reynard
as you respect my favour, to clear your self of his holiness's
curse. My Lord said the Fox, it is the only reason of my go-
ing to Rome, neither will I rest night nor day, till I have
gotten a full absolution: the cause you take is good (said the
King) go on and prosper to your intent and purpose.

CHAP. 13.

How Reynard the Fox was honoured of all Beasts by the
Kings Commandment.

As soon as this conference was ended, the royal King
mounted upon his high Throne, made in manner of a
Scaffold, made of fair squared Stone, and then commanded
a general silence amongst all his Subjects, and that every
one should take his place according to his Birth or dignity in
Order, only the Fox was placed between the King and the
Queen. Then said the King: Hear all you Nobles, Pen,
Knights, Gentlemen, and others of inferior Quality:
This Reynard, one of the chief and sapient Officers of my
household-

The pleasant History

of a Gentleman, whose offences had brought him to the least reck-
oning of his life, as being in the hands of the Law & Justice :



both this day in requital of those Favourites, none that shall
and worthy service to the State, that both me self and
Nation, stand bound to render him our best grace and favour

of Reynard the Fox

Therefore know, that sea divers shal ge best profite unto
 our selves, he have freely given pardon to all his officers, *The Moral.*
 and restored back to him whatsoever to us it is conteste: By this honor
 therefore heretoforth I command all of you, upon the paine done to the
 and hazard of your dearest lives, that you sail not from this Fox, you may
 day forward to do all reverence and honour, not one y^e see, that when
 Reynard himself, but also to his Wiffe and Children, when I will me get
 soever or wheresoever you shall meet them, whether by night the upperhand
 or by day: not that any one hereafter be so audacious, as to of their ene-
 trouble mine ears with any other complaints of him: for his mies, it never
 wickednesse he hath cast behind him, and will no more be reflecteth till it
 guilty of wrong doing: which to effect the better, to more to the World
 rove very early he taketh his journey towards Rome, where the greatnesse
 from the Pope he will purchase a free Pardon and Indulgence of their Con-
 for all his offences, and then on Pilgrimage to the Holy-land, quest, both to
 Wh. speech when I sell the Raven heard, he flew to Buine, expresse their
 Ilegim, and Tybert, and said; *Wretched Creatures, how to exennate*
 are your fortunes changed? or how can you insure to leave their crime,
 the first thing? Why Reynard is now a Countier a Counsellor and keep their
 lout, nay the prime Favorite: his offences are few; then, and does in aw with
 you are all betrayed and sold unto bondage. Ilegim answer: shew of new
 ed, It is impossible Tisilla, nor can such a thing be suff red: grace and fa-
 do not deserve your selves (said the Raven) for it is true.
 as that now I speak it. Then went the Wolf and the Bear By the com-
 to the King; but th. Cat stand, and was so sore affrighted, plaint of the
 with the news, that to purchase the Foxs friendship again, ed the weak
 the world not only bare forgiveness the evils received, but still, and fear of the
 singly have run into a second hazard. But how I legim weaker sort
 with great majesty and wise treating over the fields, came and how in
 before the King and Queen, and with most bitter and cruel they fly to the
 words intebled against the Fox in such a passionate and Heads of fa-
 impudent manner, that the King being infinite y moved tion, and Air
 with displease, caused the Wolf and the Bear to be reso- them, with
 ly arrested upon high Treason: which suddenly was fetters, to pre-
 zone with a violence and fear, and they were bound hand vent evils
 and foot so fast, that they could neither stir nor move from
 the place where they were touched. How whith the Fox
 had

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By the Wolf had thus entangled and entangled them, he laboured with the Boar, that he got leaue to hide so much of the Boars commitment, is shewed, that as would make him a large Strip for his Journey:

when men complain in unreasonable times, they ever run themselves into, most appear and grieve us much.



Which granted, he treating nothing but a strong fair a seems to defend his feet from the Stones in his Trabell where

of Reynard the Fox.

whereupon he said to the Queen; Madam, I am your Pilgrim; and if it would please your Majesty but to take it into your consideration, you shall find that Sir Isegrim hath a pair of excellent long lasting ones, which would you vouchsafe to bestow upon me, I would pray for your Majesties soul in all my travel, above my charitable devotion, Also mine Aunt, Dame Arfwind, hath other two shoes, which would your Majesty bestow upon me. I would be most infinitely bound to you, nor should you do to her any wrong, because she goes seldom abroad. The Queen replied, Reynard, I cannot perceive how you can want such shoes, for your journey is full of labour and difficulty, both in respect of the stony mountains, and the gravelly way, and therefore you shall have (though it touch their life never so nearly) from each of them a pair of shoes to accomplish and finish your Journey.

CHAP. 14.

How Isegrim and his wife Arfwind had their shoes pluck of for Reynard to wear to Rome.

After the Fox had made his Petition, Isegrim was taken, and his shoes pulled off in most cruel and violent manner, so that all the bones and sinews lay naked, nor durst the poor massacred Wolf either complain or resist. After he had been thus tormented, then dame Arfwinde his wife was used on the same manner on her hinder feet, as her husband was on his fore feet. While the Fox sitting, said to her in a scornful manner: Dear Aunt, how much am I bound to you, that takes all this pains for my sake? quoth she: you shall be a sinner in my pilgrimage and take part in the punishment. I shall bring from beyond Seas by the help of your shoes. When Arfwinde (though speech were troublesome to her) said: Well Sir Reynard, you have your will accomplished, yet Heaven (I hope) will requite the mis-doer. While she said but her husband and the Bear lay mute, for their wounds were grievous unto them; and surely had the Cat been there

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allie, he had not escaped some extreme punishment. The next morning very early Reynard causing his shoes to be well oiled put them on, and made them as fit to his feet, so they were to the Wolves, and then went to the King and Queen, and said, My Lord, and Lady, your Majesty subject be with himself before your Majesty, humbly beseeching your Highnesses, to deliver me my wife and my staff black according to the custome due unto Pilgrims,

This said, the King sent for Bellin the Ram, and commanded him to say solemn Mass before the Fox, and to deliver him his staff, and his male: but the Ram refused, saying, My Lord, I dare not, for he hath confessed he is in the Popes curse: and the King said, what of that: have not our Doctors told us, that if a man commit all the sins in the world, yet if he repent him self, he shalben, do penance, and walk as the Priests shal instruct him, that all is clearly forgiven him? and hath not Reynard done all this? then answered Bellin, Sir, I am loath to meddle herein, yet if your Majesty will hear me harmless against the Bishop of Fendelore (my ordinarie) and against the Arch-deacon of Loof-wind, and Rapianus his Official, I will effect your commandment. At this the King grew angry, and said, I scorn to be beholden unto you: but when the Ram saw the King offended, he shook for fear, and ran presently to the Altar, and sung Mass and used many ceremonies over the Fox, who gave little respect unto to them, more then the desire he had to enjoy the honour. Now when Bellin the Ram had finished his Orizons he presently hung about Reynards neck his male, which was made of the Bears skin, & put into his right foot a Palmers staff: and thus being furnished of all things, he looked sadly upon the King, as if he had been loath to depart: and said to him (though with sorrow and he were never farther asunder) only his worst grief was, that all in that presence were not in the same case that the Bear and the Wolf were, yet he took his leave of them, and desired every one to pray for him as he would pray for them: and then offering to depart, (for knowing his own knavery, he was very desirous to be gone.) The King

of Reynard the Fox

King said, Sir Reynard, I am sorry to part thus suddenly: then saith the Fox, There is more news my Lord, more ought. I have to say as yet. Then the King took leave and commanded all that were about him (but the Bear and the Wolf) to attend Reynard some part of his journey. And he that had seen how gallant and personable Reynard was, and how well his staff and his male became him: as also how fit his shoes were for his feet, it could not have chosen but have stirred in him very much laughter, yet the Fox carried himself outwardly very demurely: however inwardly he smiled at the abuses he had cast amongst them, especially to see his enemies, now his attendants, and the King, whom he had most palpably wronged with false lies, to be aiding to all his vain desires and accompanying him also a little of his own company. But the Fox being now somewhat wearied, he said to the King, I beseech your Majesty trouble your self no further, but in respect of your ease, and the danger that might happen to your royal person, for you have arrested two capital Traitors, who if in your absence they should get at liberty, the danger were infinite, which might issue thereon. At this said, he stood under his hinder feet, and first eated the beast that were in his company, and would be partakers of his pardon: that they would pray for him, which do so. he said to the King with an exceeding sad and heavy countenance: then turning to Kyward the Hare, and Kellin the Rhin he said with a smiling countenance: O, best friends, what is part thus with? I know your loves will not leave me yet: with you I was never offended, and your company is as agreeable to my nature: for you are of a loving, and courteous, religious, and full of wit creatures, even such as my self was when I was first a Kellin's: if you give a few grass leaves, or a little grain, you are as welcome as any of all the men and fish in the world, and you are temperate and modest: and thus with a world of such like flattering words, he invited them two, that they were content to go along with him.

The pleasant History

CHAP. 17.

How *Kayward* the Hare was slain by *Reynard* the Fox, and sent by the Ram to the King.

THUS marched these three together and when *Reynard* was come to the gates of his own house, he said to *Bellin* cousin, I will intreat you to stay here without a little, whilst I and *Kayward* go in: for I would have him a witness of some private passages betwixt me and my wife *Bellin* in a well content and so the Fox and the Hare went into *Mallet* park, where they found dame *Ermeline* lying on the ground with her younglings about her: who had sorrowed exceedingly for the loss and danger of her husband: but when she saw his return, her joy was ten times doubled: But beholding his male, his staff, and his shoes, she grew into great admiration, and said, Dear husband, how hate you fare? to whom he delivered from point to point, all that had passed with him at the Kings Court; as well his danger, as relief, and that now he was to go a pilgrimage, having left *Brune* and *Hegard* to pledge for him till his return: as for *Reynard*, he said, the King had bestowed him upon them, to do with him what they pleased, affirming, that *Kayward* was the first that had complained of him, for which questionless he vowed to be sharply revenged. When *Kayward* heard these words, he was much appalled, and would fain have fled away, but he could not: for the Fox had got between him and the Gate, who presently seized the Hare by the neck: at which the Hare cried unto *Bellin* for help, but could not be heard, for the Fox in a trice had torn out his throat: which done, he, his wife and young ones feasted there with merrily eating the flesh, and drinking the blood to the Kings health but *Ermeline* growing suspicious, said, I fear, *Reynard*, you mock me: as you love me, tell me how you sped at the Court. When he told her how extremely he had flattered the King and the Queen, and abused them with a fained promise of treasure, that was not so much, that he knew when it should come to be revealed, the

of Reynard the Fox

the King would seek all the means he could to destroy him.
And therefore Wolfe, said he, there is no remedy but we must
steal from hence, into some other part where we may

the Metall.



The craft of
the Fox shew-
eth, that when
evil men are
in danger, they
ever find
most religion,
and by a shew
of a patience,
win pity from
those that dive
not into the
depth of their
deceit & kna-
very, whereby
though they
believe so e-
vil, yet they
get a good
name and great
opinion of the
multitude. By
the also union
which the
Beeke gave
the Fox, is
how easily he
and shewed,
next simple
man may be
brought to be-
lieve a knaves
pennance,
and how

It be in better safety, and in a place more fruitful, were we
should have all the delicate meats that can be wished for, clear
Springs,

The pleasant History

are they are
 forgive themselves
 passes on sun
 ed sorrow,
 which indeed
 should not be
 done without
 a note fit
 to severe exa
 minat on. The
 Foxes leading
 the Buck by
 the Ma. ally
 and taking the
 Capon, shew
 eth that where
 wickedness is
 rooted and
 made as it
 were a hazard,
 that there not
 withstanding
 all hypocritic
 will still flin
 out, & a knave
 in despite of
 all persuasion:
 & good coun
 sell.

Springs fresh Rivers, cool shades, and wholsom air: here I
 know is no abiding: and now I have gotten my thumb out
 of the Kings mouth: I will no more come within the danger
 of his talons. Yet (said Ermelin) I have no saue to go from
 hence to a place where I am utterly unacquainted: here we
 possess all that we desire, and you are a Lord over all that
 liues about you, and it is but an insensible hazard, to change
 a certain good for a hoped contentment: Besides, we are
 here safe enough, and should the King besiege us never so
 straightly, yet have we so many passages and by-holes, that
 he can neither cut from us relief, or liberty. O what reason
 have we then to flee beyond Seas? but you have sworn it,
 that's my vocation. Nay dame (said the Fox) grieve not
 at that: the more forsworn, the less forsoorn: Besides
 I have heard some say, that a forsworn Oath is no Oath, nor do
 I make account that this pilgrimage will not abate me a rush.
 And therefore I am resolved, and will not start from hence,
 but follow thy counsell: If the King do hunt after me, I
 will guard myself as well as I am able, and against his
 power apply my Policy: so that being forced to open my
 count, & a knave sack, let him not blame me if he catch hurt by his own
 in despite of fury.

All this while stood Bellin the Ram at the gate, and grew
 exceeding angry both against the Foxes the Hares, that they
 made him wait so long: and therefore called out aloud,
 for Reynard to come away: Which when Reynard heard,
 he went forth, and said softly to the Ram, Good Bellin be
 not offended: Kayward is in earnest conference with his dea
 rest Aunt, and intreated me to say unto you, that if you
 would be pleased to wait a while, he would speedily overtake
 you, for he is light of foot and speedier then you: nor will his
 Aunt part with him thus suddenly, for she and her children
 are much perplexed at my departure. I but (quoth Bellin) me
 thought I heard Kayward cry for help. How, cry for help?
 can you imagine he shall receive hurt in my House? far be
 such a thought from you: but I will tell you the reason: as
 soon as we were sent into my house, and that Ermelin my
 wife

of Reynard the Fox.

While under stood of my pilgrimage, presently he fell down
 in a swoond: which when Kyward saw, he cried aloud: O
 Bellin come and help my Aunt, she dies, she dies, then I to the
 Ram, In Ladie's sake I must look the cry, & thought the hare had
 been in danger. It was your too much care of him, said the
 Fox, but before he should have any injury in my house, I
 would leave to respect either wife or children. But I telling
 this discourse past, you remember Bellin, that yesternight the
 King and his Councell commanded me, that before I depar-
 ted from the land, I should send unto him two letters which
 I have made ready, and will intrust you my dearest Cousin to
 bear them to his Majesty. The Ram answered, I would wil-
 lingly do you service, if there be nothing but honorable
 matter contained in your Letters: but I am unprovided of any
 thing to carry them in. The Fox said, that is provided for
 you already, for you shall have my male, which you may con-
 veniently hang about your neck: I know they will be thank-
 fully received of his Majesty, for they contain matter of great
 importance. Then Bellin promised to carry them. So the Fox
 returned into the house, and took the male and put therein
 the head of Kyward, and brought it to the Ram, and gave him
 a great charge not to look therein, till it was presented to the
 King, as he did carry the Kings favour; and that he might
 farther indear himself with his Majesty, he bade the Ram
 taken upon him the inscribing of the Letters, which will be so
 pleasing to the King, that questionlesse he will pour upon you
 many favours.

The Ram was exceeding glad of his advice, and thanked
 the Fox, saying, that the favours he did him should not dye
 unrequited: and I know it will be much to mine honour.
 When the King shall think I am able to invite with so great
 pertection: for I know there be many in these days as igno-
 rant as my self, that are risen to high promotion, only by
 taking upon them the inscribing of other mens labours? Yet I
 pray you Reynard farther advise me: is it meet that I take
 Kyward the hare along with me? Or by no means (said the

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For let him come after you, for I know his heart will not yet part with him. Besides, I have other secret things to impart to him, which may not yet be revealed. Thus said, Bellin took leave of the Fox, and went towards the Court, in which journey he made such speed, that he came thither before noon where he found the King in his Palace, sitting amongst the Nobility.



of Reynard the Fox

The King wondered when he saw the Ram come in with the male which was made of the Bears skin, and said: Whence comest thou Bellin, and where is the Fox, that you have that about you? Bellin answered: O dear Lord, I attended the noble Fox to his house, where after some repose, he desired me to bear certain Letters to your Majesty of infinite great importance, to which I easily consented. Whereupon he delivered me the Letters inclosed in this male, which Letters my self had formerly indited, and I doubt not but are such as will give your Highness both contentment and satisfaction. Presently he commanded the Letters to be delivered to Be care his Secretary, who was an excellent Linguist, and understanding all Languages: that he might read them publicly: so he & Tybert the Cat took the male from the Bellins neck, and opening the same, instead of Letters, they drew out the head of Kyward the Hare: at which being amazed, they said; Alas and alas, what Letters call you this? believe it, my dear Lord, here is nothing but the head of poor murdered Kyward. Which the King seeing (he said) Alas, how unfortunate was I to believe the crafty Fox? And with that being oppressed with anger, grief, and shame, he held down his head for a good space, and so did the Queen also: But in the end shaking of his curled locks, he groaned out such a dreadful noise, that all the beasts of the Forest did tremble to hear. Then spake Sir Firaple the Libard, who was the Kings nearest kinsman, and said: Why is your Majesty thus vexed in heart? This sorrows might serve for the Queens Funeral, I do beseech you allwaie your anguish: Are not you King and master of this Country? and are not all things subject to your power, The King replied Cousin, this is mischief beyond insurance I am betrayed by a base villain, and Traitor, and have been made to wrong and abuse my best friends and Subjects, even those of my blood, and nearest counsel? I mean the stout Bruins, and valiant Isgrim, whose wrongs speak loud to my dishonour, yet in my self I found an unwillingness thereto, only my Queens little working upon the ex-

quisite



finesse of my better, hath made me guilty of that which will
 evermore grieve me. Why said the Lybard what of all this
 you are above all your injuries, and with one smile can salve
 the greatest wound that can be made in honour, you have po-
 wer to recompence, & what reputation is it that rewards will
 not sawder? as for the Bear wh'ch lost his skin, the Wolf
 and his wife dame Arsewinde, that lost their shoes, you may
 in recompence (since Bellin hath confessed himself a party in
 this foul murder) bestow him and his substance on the ver-
 ties grieved: as for Reynard, we will go besiege his Castle,
 and having arrested his person, hang him up according to the
 Law of Arms, without further trial.

CHAP. 16

How Bellin the Ram and his Lineage were given to the Bear
 and the Wolf.

To his motion of the Lybard the King consented, so that
 Firapell went forth with as the Prison, where the Bear

of Reynard the Fox.

and the Wolf were, and said; My Lords, I bring a free
and general pardon from the King, with his love, and a re-
cognition of your injuries, which to recompence in a large



anner out of his princely bounty, he is pleased to bestow
on you both Be/lin the Ram, & his whole generation, with
inba

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whatsoever they possess, and is now confiscated to his Majesty, to hold from henceforth to you and yours till doom-day, with full Commission to slay kill and devour them wheresoever you find them, be it in Woods, Fields or Mountains. And also the King granted unto you full power to hunt, kill, or wound Reynard the Fox wheresoever you find him, or any of his lineage or generation: and of this great privilege you shall receive Lettice & Patents at your pleasure, with only a reservation of your fealty and homage to be due to his Majesty, which I advise you to accept, for it will redound much to your honours. Thus was the peace made between the King and these Nobles by the Lopard, and Belin the Ram was forthwith slain by them, and all these Privileges both the Wolf hold to his heart, nor could ever any recordment be made between them and the Rams kinred, when this peace was thus finished, the King for joy thereof proclaimed a Feast to be held for twelve days after, which was done with all solemnity.

To this feast came a manner of wild Beasts, for it was universally known through the whole Kingdom, nor was there wanting any delight or pleasure that could be imagined as musick, dancing, masking and all Princely recreations: As for febrall meats they were in that abundance, that the Court seemed a store house which could not be emptied. Also to this feast resorted abundance of feathered fowl, and all other Creatures that held peace with his Majesty, and none missing but the Fox only. Now after this feast had thus continued in all pomp the space of eight days about high noon came Lapril the Coy before the King and Queen, as they sat at dinner, and with a heavy and lamentable voice said My gracious and great Lord have pity upon my misdeed and send me my complaint, which is of great violence, forced and cruel which Reynard the Fox would yesterday have committed against me, as I passed by the Castle of Malepartus, were standing without his gates, attired like a Pilgrim, I supposing to pass by him peaceably towards my next journey, hee crossed my way saying his Words so devoutly, that I

(sintet)

Of Reynard the Fox.

saluted him: but he returned no answer. Straight forth his right
 right sat, and gave me such a blow on the neck, betwixt the



By the giving
 of Bellin unto
 his enemy, is
 shewed, that
 when simple
 men give them
 selves to pride
 and vain glory,
 they are over-
 taken by their
 enemies, and
 made slaves to
 shame and des-
 truction. By
 the complaint
 of the Cony, is
 shewed, that
 when the weak
 will believe
 the fair shews
 of the strong
 and cruel, and
 for commit
 their safeties to
 their enemies
 mercies, they
 seldom escape
 with life, or if
 they do by
 some hidden
 providence, yet
 it is not with-
 out ever some
 main either to
 their bodies or
 reputations.
 The complaints
 of the Rook
 shews that

head and shoulders, that I imagined my head had been strick.
 When from my bo: y: but yet so much memo: y: was left me thar
 I leaped from his claws; though most grievously hurt and
 wounded.

when the evil
 men sleepeith
 or seemeth to
 have least
 power or is

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sort of wickedness, that then his thoughts are most busied and laborious to destroy the innocent, and the mischief is more violent, than when the lyeth most apparent, and publisheth himself a open enemy: wherefore the simple and innocent ought at such times to be most fearful, and to keep farthest out of his danger.

At this he grieved extremely, because I escaped; only of one of my cars he utterly depriued me; which I beseech your Majesty in your royal nature to pity, and that this bloody murderer may not live thus to afflict your poor Subjects. Now whilst this Count was thus speaking to the King, there came flying to the Court Corbani the Cook, who coming before the King, said: Great King, I beseech you vouchsafe to hear me, and pity the complaint I shall utter: so it is that I went this morning with Sharpbeak my wife, to recreate our selves on the Heath, and there we found Reynard the Fox laid on the ground like a dead carcass, his eyes staring, his tongue lolling out of his mouth like a dead wound, so that we wondering at his strange plight, began to feel and touch his body, but found no life therein at all: then I and my wife (poor careful soul) and laid her head to his mouth, to see if he drew any breath: which she did no sooner done but the foul murderer awaiting his time, snatch'd her head into his mouth, and bit it quite off. At that I creaked out, and cried: Who is he, what misfortunes are these? But presently the murderer starts up and reaches at me with such a bloody intent, that with much trembling and anguish, I was faine to flye up into a tree, where I saw him devour my wife in such terrible manner, that the very thought is terrible to me in repeating.

When the massacre finished, the murderer departed, and I went to the place, and gathered the scutlers of my lost wife, which here I humbly present before your Majesty, beseeching you to do me justice, & in such manner to revenge mine injury, that the world may speak fame of your great excellence; so that to suffer your Lawes Protections, and safe conducts to be violated and broken, will be such disreputation and scandal to your Crown and dignity, that our very neighbours and Colleagues will note and point at your remissness: besides the sufferance of this evil will make you guilty of the trespasses which arise from such sufferance: What to your great contentations I leave it: Since I know your Majesties own Goodness will make you careful of your honour and royalty.

CHAP.

of Reynard the Fox

CHAP. 17.

How the King was angry at these complaints, took counsell
for revenge; and how Reynard was forewarned
by Grimbold the Brock.

The royal King was much moved with anger, when he
heard these complaints both of the Cony and the Rook:
so that his eyes darting out fire amongst the beams of Pa-
ley, his countenance was dreadful and cruel to look on, and
the whole Court trembled to behold him. In the end he
said; By my Crown, and the truth, I determine reuerence
and owe unto the Queen my Wife, I will for revenge these
outrages committed against my Crown and dignity, that
goodwill shall adore me, and the wicked shall die with the re-
membrance: his falsehood and flattery shall no more get be-
liefe in me.

As this his journey to Rome, and to the Holy Land? are
these the fruits of the Pale, his Staff, and other ornaments
becoming a devout Pilgrim? Well he shall find the reward
of his treasons: but it was not my belief, but the persuasion
of my Queen: nor am I the first that hath been deceived by
that soft gender, since many great spirits have fallen through
their inticements. And this said, he commanded all that were
about him, both Noble, Wealthy, and every discreet spirit to
assist him with their counsel, and to lay him down such sure
grounds for his revenge, that his honour and royalty might be
incorrupted and every offender made to know and feel the
heavy price for their most unjust actions.

Legion the Wolf, and Bruine the Bear, hearing the
Kings words, were wonderfully well apaid, and doubted not
but now to gain their full revenge against Reynard: yet still
they kept silence and spake not a word. Inasmuch that the
King being much moved with their dumbness, and minding
that none durst freely deliver their opinions: He began to
end his forehead: but the Queen after plain reuerence,
said to the King, Mounier, Pour Dieu voyez moi toutes
choies

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hoses qu'on voit, se ne jure a point Jegerement. Or it is not
 the part of any excellent wisdom to belittle or protest in any
 thing, till the matter be made most apparent and pregnant
 to his knowledge: neither should both his ears be engaged
 to any complaint, but one ever reserved to entertain
 the defence of a accused: For many times the accuser
 excoasth

of Reynard the Fox.

excuseth the accused in injury, and therefore Andire alteram Partem, to hear the other party is the act of perfect Justice: For mine own part howsoever I have erred, yet I have strong ground for my persuasion, and whether Reynard be good or bad, yet it stands with your Excellency not to proceed against him but by the true form of your Laws: for he hath no power to escape you, but must obey whithersoever your Majesty can impose upon him. When the Queen had thus spoken Escapel the Libard to second her intreaty, said; my Lord the Queen hath spoken graciously: I see not wherein your Majesty can stray from her judgment: Therefore let him take the due trial of your Laws, and being found guilty of the trespasses whereof he is accused, let him be summoned: and if he appear not before your feast be ended, to clear himself or submit to your mercy; then may your highness proceed against him as it shall seem best to your pleasure.

To this speech Isegrim the Wolf replied, Sir Escapel for my own part, I think not a ny of this assembly will dissent from your counsel, so it may stand with the pleasure of my Lord the King; yet this I dare maintain, that howsoever Reynard shall clear himself of these, and a thousand such like trespasses which shall be brought against him: Yet I have that lodgeth in my bosom which shall approve he hath forfeited his life: but at this time his absence shall make me silent, only touching the treasure of which he hath informed his Majesty, to wit at Credenpit in Hutterloe, there never came a sever information from the mouth of any creature: for it was a lie out of malice to wrong me and the Bear, and get himself liberty to rob and spoil all that pass by his house, as it were both: but not withstanding I held it meet that all things be done as shall seem good to his Majesty, or you Sir Escapel: yet this I believe, that if he had meant to have appeared he had been here long since, for he had surely now given him by the Kings Messenger.

To this the King answered, I will have no other course of summoning him, but command all that owe me allegiance or respect mine honour, that forthwith they make themselves ready.

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ready for the war: and at the end of six dayes appear before me with their Bowes, Guns, Mumbars, Pikes and Halberds; some on horse-back, some on foot, for I will beseege Malepardus instantly, and destroy Reynard and his generation from the earth for ever: this if any dislike, let him turn his back, that I may know him from mine enemy, And they all cried with one voice, we are ready to attend your Majesty. When Grimbard the Wock heard this determination, he grew exceeding sorry (though his sorrow was desperate) and stealing from the rest of the company, he ran to thall speed possible to Malepardus, neither sparing bush nor brier, Pale nor rail: and as he went, he said to himself; Alas my dear Uncle Reynard! into hazards art thou drawn? having but one step betwixt thee and thy death, or at the best thine everlasting banishment: well may I grieve for thee, since thou art the top and honour of my house, art wise and politic, and a friend to thy friends when they stand in need of thy counsel; for with thy sweet Language thou canst inch unto Creatures, but all is now bootless. With such manner of Lamentations as these, came Grimbard unto Malepardus, and found his Uncle Reynard standing at the Castle gates, who had newly gotten two young Pigeons as they came creeping out of their nest, to try how they could learn to fly. But now beholding his Nephew Grimbard, he said, and said; Welcome my best beloved Nephew, the only I esteem above all my kindred: Since you have run exceeding fast, for you sweat wonderfully: What news man, how go the squares at the Court? He said Grimbard, exceeding ill with you, for you have forfeited both your life, honour and estate. The King is up in arms again, & you with horse-men and foot-men, and soldiers innumerable; besides Igrim and Bruine are now in more favour with his Majesty, than I am with you: therefore it is high time you have great care of your self, for there envy hath touched you to the quick; they have informed against you, that you are a thief and a murderer: and to second their informations, Laprel the Conr, and Corbrant the Roock have made hatrons com-

of Reynard the Fox

complain to again you, so that but your shameful death, I
see no escape or freedom.



Y. Tuff (said the Fox) my dear Nephew, if this be the
worst, let no sorrow affright you: but let us be cheerful and
pleasant together, for though the King and all the Court
would

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would sweare my death, yet will I be exalted above them all, well may they prate and jangle, and tire themselves with their Counsellis, but without the help of my wit and policy, neither can the Court or Commonwealth have any long continuance. Comethen my best Pephew let us enter into my Castle and feast. I have a pair of fat Pigeons for you, which are meat of pure and light digestion, I love not any thing better, they are young and tender, and may be almost swallowed whole, for their bones are little other then blood; yet come I say, my wife Ermeline will receive you kindly, but by all means report not to her of any danger, for she is of soft and melting temper, and it might strike her into sadnesse sickness, for women are apt to entertain grief. When we have feasted, I will then to morrow early in the morning go with you to the Court and if I can but attain speech with the King, I shall gaine some deep enough, on this I desire (dear Pephew) at your hands, that you will stand to me as one friend & kinsman ought to do one by another. Doubt me not (said Grimbard) for both my life and goods shall be at your service. I thank you Pephew said the Fox and you shall not find me ingrateful. Sir (said the Boock) be bold of this that you shall come & make your answer before the Lords freely, for none shall dare to arrest or hold you, for that favour the Queen and the Wybard have purchast from the King. I am glad of that (said the Fox) now care I then a hair for their most malice. And this said, they went into Malpas-dur, and found Ermeline sitting among her younglings, who presently arose, and received the Boock with all reverence, and he on the other part saluted her and her Children with all countenance. Presently the two Pigeons were made ready, and they supped together, each taking their part, though none had so much as they desired: then said the Fox. Sir, here, how like you my children Roscel and Reynardine? I hope they will do to you to our family, they are towards I assure you, for the one late y caught a Chicken and the other hath killed a Pullet: they are also good Pigeons & can both receive the Lapping and the Wallard: I tell you true, I dare already adventure

of Reynard the Fox

adventure them farre, onely I mean, first to instruct them how to escape the grins, and to prevent both the Huntsman and his Hounds; they are of the right beir Speech, and like me, both in countenance and quality: they play grinning, in tangle footling, and kil smiling this is the true nature of the Fox and in this they are perfect, which is great pride with me,

CHAP. 13

How the Fox repenting his sins did make his confession, and is absolved by the Breck

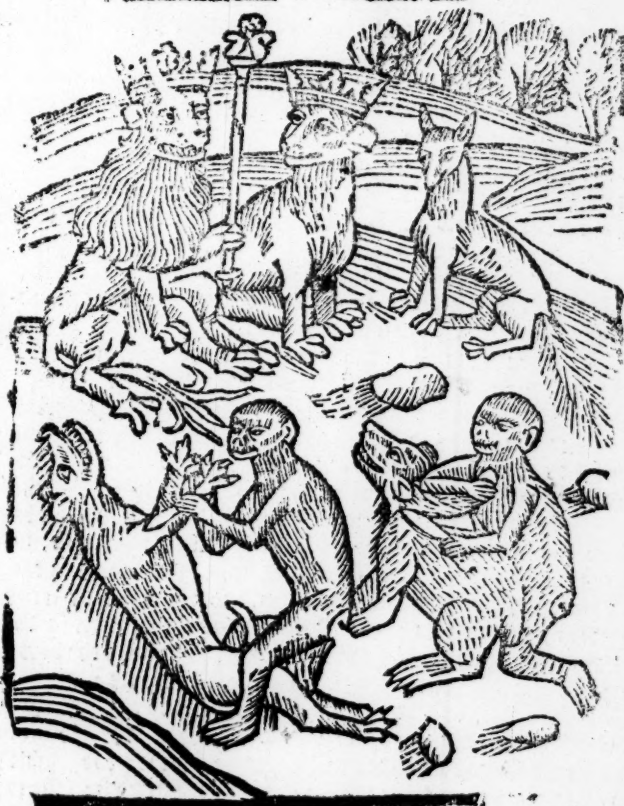
UPON C, said the Breck, you may be proud that you have such tokeard children: and rejoice because they are of my blood. I thank you Speech (said the Fox, but I know youe journeyed both mad, you weare that I see you shall go to your rest, to which the Breck consented, so they laid them down upon straw litters, and all slept soundly, but the Fox in lone heart was heavy with sorow, sayd moynyng, how he might excuse himself he toke the King. But early in the moynyng Grim and he went towards the Court, yet he toke he heart he took leave of his wife and children. Alas Reynard (said his wife) what motives you to take this Journey? the last time you were at the Court you know what dangers you escaped; and you walked naked in the street again. Will you not see a second hazard? Waire (said the Fox) the occurrences of the world are others and uncertain and we are subject to the strokes of fortune: but rest your own dear selfe content, there is great necessity, upon which that I go, and I hope my trip will not be above the dayes

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at the uttermost, and embracing his wife and children, he took leave and departed; and as they journeyed over the Desert, Reynard said to the Monk: *Reverend, since I was last shaven I have committed many sins, therefore I beseech you let me make before you my confession, that I may pass with trouble through my worst dance.*



Then he recovered, and said: It is true P. phew, that I was
the Bear receiveth a great wound for the Male, which I did
cut off his skin; and I caused the Wolf and his Wife to be



strip of their shewes: I appealed the King on'y with false
hood: I fained a conspiracy against his Majesty's life by the
Bear & the Wolf, when there was never any such determi-

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matters, also I reported of great treasure to be hid in Harkerlo
 but it was a fabrick as the rest, I flew Kiywarl, and be-
 trayed Eyllin, I wounded the Coy, and killed Wines Sharp-
 shote, the Blacke wife, Lastly I forgot at my last conceit say
 great deceit which I committed, but I will reveal it, & thus
 it was.
 As I went walking with the Wolf between Houthlust
 and Everding, we beheld a goodly gray Mare grazing, with a
 black Foul by her side, which was exceeding fat and win-
 their cloak. By then the Wolf at that instant was almost dead for hunger: in
 so much that he entreated me to go to the Mare, and know if
 she would sell her foal? I went and demanded the question?
 She Mare said: she would willingly sell it for money: I then
 asked the price, and she said, the price was written in her
 hinder foot which if I please I might come and read it at my
 pleasure, but I that well understood her politick anger,
 said, It is true that I can not read, neither do I desire to
 buy your foal, unless I am a messenger from the Wolf
 who hath a great desire to have it. Then (said the Mare) let
 him come himself, and I will give him satisfaction: When
 I went to the Wolf, and told him what the Mare said; ad-
 vising him, that if he pleased he might have his help full of the
 foal: provided he could read, for the price was written in
 the Mares hinder foot. And (said the Wolf) what should
 I do? I can neither read, nor Latin, French, English,
 and Dutch. I have studied in Oxford, and argued with many
 Doctors, I have heard many stately sermons, and sitten in the
 place of judgement: I have taken degrees in both the laws,
 as is there that writing which I cannot decipher: so de-
 siring me to stay for him there, away he went to the Mare, and
 craved that he might see and read the price of the foal: so
 which the Mare consented to lift up her hinder foot: which
 as it was newly bed with strong and seven three nail-heads
 the Wolf lookt at them, and smote himself full upon the
 fore head, that the three went over and over, and he lay in
 a dead swoon whilst a man might have taken a mile bet-
 ter, which done, away trotted the Mare with her Colt-
 and,

of Reynard the Fox

and left the poor Wolfe bloody and wounded; in-so-much that he howled like a Dog: then went I to him, and said the legrim, dear Uncle how do you, have you eaten too much of the colt: in-ward you are unkind, that you wou'd give mee no part with you. I went your message honestly; methinks you have slept out your dinner: good Uncle tell me what was written under the Spares foot, was it in these or Rime; indeed I would faine know it: I think it was quick-song, for I heard you sing: nay, you shew your scholar ship in all the Arts.

Alas Reynard (alas said the Wolfe) I pray you forbear to dishonour me, for I am extremely wounded, and mine anguish is so great, that a heart of flint wou'd pitty me, The damned Spare on her long leg hath got an iron foot, and I took the nails to have been Letters, on which I looked: shee bit me so full on the head, I think my skull is cloven: Therefore know, that for others things best known unto our selves, we have freely given pardon to all his offences, and restored back to him whatsoever to us was confiscate: ther-fore henceforth I command all of you, upon the paine and hazard of your dearest lives, that you fail not from this day forward to do all reverence and honour, not onely to Reynard himself, but also to his Wife and Children, whensoever or wheresoever you shall meet them, whether by night or by day: not that any one hereafter be so audacious, as to trouble mine ears with any other complaints of him: for his wickednesse he hath cast behind him; and will no more be guilty of wrong doing: which to effect the better, to morrow very early he taketh his journey towards Rome, to where from the Pope he will purchase a free Pardon: Indulgence for all his offences, and then on Pilgrimage to the Holyland. And said Grimbold I freely absolve you, upon this assurance of your hearty repentance: only the conceit you may be doing him Kywards head: and the abuse of so many false hopes which ly heapy upon you (thysaid the Fox) see that you take in the Wolfe to see this, or here that, that uncharitable, be they, may ever converse with affliction.

No man can touch Honey, but he must lick his fingers. I often feel touches of repitance, but reason and our lusts are ever in continual combat; so that I oft stand still at my lusts end: and cry out against my sins, feeling a detestation of them. But presently the world and her vanities appear to me again: and when I find so many stones and rubs in my way, and the examples of the crafty Devils, and rich Devils to incite me, that I am forthwith taken again: the world fills me with covetousness, and the flesh with wantonness; so that losing my good resolutions I am onely for Hell and wickedness. I hear their singing, piping, laughing, playing, and all kind of mirth; and I see their words and actions so contrary, that nothing is more uncertain and various, from them I learn my lying, and from Lords Courts my flattery: for certainly Lords, Ladies, Priests, and Clerks, use most dissimulation. It is now an offence to tell great men truth: and he that cannot dissimble, cannot live. I have oft heard men speak truth, yet they have still graced it with falsehood: for untruths many times happen in discourse unwillingly and without knowledge: yet having a handsome garment it ever goes for current. (Dear Prophets) it is now a fashion to lye, flatter, scorb, threaten, pray and curse, and to do any thing that may keep the weak in subjection; who do otherwise is held foolish: but he that cannot withstand falsehood, in truths kitchief, hath neither Art nor cunning: but he that can do it, and deliver error without flammering, he may do wonders; he may wear the rich, Gray or Purple: he shall gain both by the Law spiritual and temporal and write himself conquerour in every designment. There be many that imagine they can lie neatly: but their cunning oft fails them: so that when they think to feed of the fat morsels, they slip quite besides their trenchers. Others blunt and foolish and for want of method marre all the discourses, but he that can give to his lie a fit and an apt conclusion, can pronounce it without rattling, and make it as truth, fair and amiable: That is the man, and worthy of admiration. But to speak truth is

of Reynard the Fox.

no cunning, it never makes the Devil laugh: to lye well & with a grace: to lift up a long abobe: to make mountains and build Castles in the air: as the Fox said to the King, I saw my father come running out of a hole, and as soon as he was come out, he grized round about him, to see if any discovered him; then seeing the coast clear, he stopp'd the hole with sand, and made it so even, smooth, and plain, that no curious eye could discern a difference betwixt it and the other earth: and where the print of his foot remained, that with his tail he stroked over; and with his mouth so smother'd it, that no man might perceive it: and indeed that and many other subtilties I learned of him there at that instant: when he had thus finished, away he went towards the village about his private affairs; then went I presently towards the hole, and notwithstanding all his subtilty I quickly found out, then entered I the Cave where I found that innumerable quantity of treasure, which cannot be expressed: which found I took Ermelin my wife to help me, and we ceast not day nor night, with infinite great toyle & labor, to carry and convey away this treasure to another place, much more convenient for us, where we laid it safe from the search of any creature. Now during the time that my wife and I were thus employed, my father was in consultation with the rest of the traitors about the death of the King: in which consultation it was concluded, that Illegim the Wolf should travaill over all the Kingdom, and promise to all Beasts that would take wages, and acknowledge Bruine for their soveraign, and defend his title, a full years pay before hand.

With these and such manner of discourses, they held on their journey towards the Court, where he saw some that he knew loved him not, as the Otter and the Bever, and others and saw them that loved him. As soon as he came to the King, he fell on his knee, and spake as followeth,

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CHAP. 9.

How Reynard the Fox excused himself before the King, and
of the Kings answer.

That diuine power shew them nothing can be hid, save
my Lord the King, and my Lady the Queen, and give
them grace to know who hath right, and who hath wrong, for



of Reynard the Fox

here are many false shewes in the world and the countenance
bewrayeth not the heart : which I wish were openly reueal-
les , and that every creatures trespass shoud written in his
fore-head , albeit it cost me the uttermost of my substance , or
what you , my Sovereign Lord , know me as neer as my
self , and how I dispose my self early and late , labouring in
your service. For which cause only malice makes all her
complaines against me , striving to thrust me out of your
grace and favour. Inasmuch that out of my anguish I must
now da cry shame upon them which hate so dearly helped me.
Nevertheless , I know that you my Lord , and Sovereign
Lord , are to erre least in your Judgments , that you will not
be carried away with falshood : and therefore I most hum-
bly beseech your Majestie , to take into your wisdoms all
things according to the right of your Lawes : for it is Justice
I look for , and desire that he which is found guilty , may feel
the weight of his punishment. For helpe it , dear Lord , it
shall be known before I depart from your Court who I am ,
that I came of flatter , but will shew my face with an unble-
mished fore-head.

All they that were in the presence stood amazed , and won-
dered when the Fox spake so stoutly. But the King with a
gratefully countenance said : Reynard , I know you are expert in
fallacies , but now is are now to break to relieve you , I helpe
this day will be the last of your glory and disgrace : for me I
will not chide you much , because I intend you shall live but a
short time : the lobe you do hear me , you have shewed to the
Coyse and the Rook , and your request shall be a short life on
earth. The ancient saying is , A Foxs life may long to the wa-
ter , but in the end comes broken home. And your words have
so long succeeded , that they will now pay you the hazard. At
these words Reynard was stricken into a great fear , and
wished himself far away , yet he thought himself that now
he must bear thozow , what for me soever came : Where-
upon he said , My Sovereign Lord the King , it is but Ju-
stice that you hear my answer my accusatiens : for were my
faults more famous then evil can make them , yet you ge-
ve

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gives the accuſed leave ever to answer. I have with my counſels done you ſervice in former time, and may no leſſe ſtill: I have never ſtated from your Maſteſty, but waiked by your ſide, when others have gone from your preſence: If then my enemies with their flanders ſhall preſent againſt me, blame me not to complain. Time hath been it was otherwiſe, and time may bring it to the ſame ſenſe, for the actions of good ſervants ought not to be forgotten. I ſee here others of my kindred and friends, which now make ſo much value of me, whom I can approve, go about to deſcribe you of the beſt ſervant you poſſeſs. Can your Maſteſty imagine if I had been guilty of the leaſt imagined crime, that I would thus voluntarily have made my appearance even in the throng of mine Enemies? O it had been too much diſcretion: nor would the liberty I had, been ſo eaſily ſubjected. But heaven be thanked, I know mine innocence, and dare aſſert my leaſt enemy. But when my brother in Germany firſt brought me the tidings, I muſt confeſſe I was half diſtracted with anger; & had I not been in the cenſure of his Church, I had appeared ere they had left complaining; but that detained me. And I wandered with ſorrow on the heath, till I met with my Uncle Martin, the Abbe, who ſar excuſeth any Prioreſt in Political Inſinuations, for he hath been Attorney to the Biſhop of Cambrick any time this nine years: and ſeeing me in this great agony of heart, he ſaid, Dear Couſin, why are you thus heavy in ſpirit, and why is your countenance dejected? grief is eaſy to carry, when the burthen is ſhared amongſt friends: For the nature of a true friend is to behold and relieve that, which anguiſh will not ſuffer the oppreſſed to ſee or ſuffer. Then I anſwered him, You ſay true dear Uncle, and the like is my ſortune, for ſo it is without cauſe laid upon me, and of that I am not guilty, I am accuſed by thoſe I ranked with my beſt friends; As namely the Coney, who came yeſterday to my houſe as I was ſleeping Martin, ſaying, he was travelling towards the Court, but was at that time both hungry & weary; and therefore requeſted of me ſome meat. I willingly preſented, took him in and gave

ORKEYNARD THE FOX.

gave him a couple of Marchets, and Sweet Butter: For it was on ~~March~~ Friday. on which day I never eat flesh. ~~How~~ Does it was then a fast, by reason the feast of ~~Whitson~~ Whitsontide

The Mith.

The boldness of the Foxes appearance & speech, shews the impudence of a desperate offender, that having nothing but his own boldness to rely upon, he can't still cry for Justice and caring not so much to excuse himself, as to accuse others, and by digressions & extravagant speech to bring all those into disgrace which are able to testify any thing against him. By the tale of the Apes going for him to Rome, and his threatening the King is shewed, the ignorance and foolish blindness of the old times, which would thrust Kings under the Popes crosse & make them subject to his Commands, though they were never so



was near. At which time he must have cleansed and purged their hearts, Et vos effete Parari. Now when he had almost

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heathenish, & Diabolical. By his excusing him of crimes against the Coney and the Rook, is shewed that whoſe ever is reſolved to do an ill act, will never make confeſſion to tell a loud lie, nor is he ever unprovided therof, becauſe they are the garments which he ever cloaks his knavery with. By the Apes friend is well reſreſh himſelf, my youngſt ſon Roſſel came fir, and offered to take away what he had left (for you know the nature of Children is ever to be eating and craving) But preſently the Coney ſmote Roſſel on the mouth, that his teeth bled, and the poore ſay fell down almoſt in a ſwound, which when as Reynardine (my eldeſt ſon) beheld: he ſurthwith leapt to the Coney, and caught him by the head, and queſtionleſs had ſlaue him, had I not come to the reſcue. Which done, I went and gave my ſon correction for his fault. What preſently Laprell the Coney goes to my Lord the King, and informs that I (my ſelf) ſought means to murder him: thus I am accused without cauſe and brought in danger, that in truth have but cauſe to accuſe others. But not long after came Combrin the Rook, ſpying to my houſe with a ſad noiſe, and I de manding what he ſaid? He answered: Alas my wife is dead. I craved the cauſe, he ſaid: A dead Hare lying on the heath full of moths and Wormes, of which ſhe had eaten ſo much, that the worms had gnawed

of Reynard the Fox

her throat in su lunder, and without speaking to me any more
 words, away he flew, leading me much amazed, and now re-
 ports that I flew off his wife, which how could I by any possible
 means do, considering me flesh in the air, and I walk a fat
 on the ground? Thus (dear Uncle) you may see how I am
 slandered, but it may be false for my old stones, and therefore
 I bear it with more patience. Then said the Ape to me: Nephew,
 you shall go to the Court and dispute their calumnies.
 Alas, Uncle (quoth I) it cannot be, for the Archbishop hath
 put me in the Popes curse, because I gave counsell to the
 Wolf to forsake his holy Orders, when he complained to me
 of his unabilities to endure that strict life, and much fasting:
 of which Act I now much repent me, since he repayed my
 love with nothing but hatred, and malice, and with all the
 slanders he can invent, stirreth his Majestyd's party against me.
 These things (dear Uncle) beseege me to my wits end, for of
 necessity I must go to Rome for absolution, and in mine ab-
 sence, what injury may happen to my wife & children by such
 the malice of these bloody wretches my one irayguise; where
 as on the other part were I free of the Popes curse, then I
 could go to the Court and plead mine own cause, and from
 their malice see into my own bosom.

Then said the Ape, Cousin, cast off your sorrow, for I
 know the way to Rome well, and am experienced in these
 businesses, for I am called the Bishops Clerk, therefore I will
 go thither, and enter a plea against the Archbishop in spite
 of his will, bring you from the Pope a well sealed absolution.

But when I have many great friends there, as my Uncle
 Simon and others, Pen-cout, Waith-Seath, and the like, all
 which will stand unto me beside. I will not go unarm'd, but
 of money for I know Warsters are best beset with gifts, and
 the Law hath no feet to walk on but money: a true friend is
 tried in necessity, and you shall know me without doubting;
 the absence of our grief, and go to the Court as soon as you can,
 for I will presently to Rome: and in the mean time, here I quit you of all your sinnes and offences,
 and only put them upon my self: when you come to the

Rome, as Simon or Sinavie
 Priests tout, or take ill, and
 War-Seath, for do mischief, as
 showed the wickedness of
 these dayes in Rome, and how
 by much means a man might
 purchase anything he went
 about. By his insinuating
 with the apes wife (who was then a great favorite about the Queen) is
 showed the art of a subtil he that to gain
 himselfe strong party, will not spare any false
 invention, for against those
 great ones dare not the inferior
 men their lips. By the flight of
 the Coney, and the Rooke, is
 showed how soon the weals
 are troubled & distressed with
 the dreamings of the strong &
 mighty, that is better to sit
 down with

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wrong, then to
contend with
one that hold
eth too strong
a party: And
also how by
such advantage
the offen let
rikes heart, &
thereon ground
the strength of
his greater in-
nocence. By
Lyons last ac-
cusations and
the Foxes di-
rection, is
shewed, that
when truth &
authority stand
up against the
wicked, that
then studying
with his own
conscience, he
is able to abide
no longer, but
with silence &
down cast look
he shewes
plainly the
guise which
lies within
him.

Court you shall find there Dame Rukenaw my wife, her two
sisters, and my three Children, with others others of our fa-
mily: I pray you salute them from me, and shew them mine
occasions: my wife is exceeding wise, and she shall find that
her distressed friends shall not shrink when I can help them,
I know she is faithfull and as he cherishes her, will never leave
her friend in danger: At the uttermost, If your opposition be
more then you can bear, send presently to me to Rome, and
not an enemy that you have be it King or Queen, or Subject,
even from the highest to the lowest, but I will presently put
them in the Popes curse, and send back such an Interdiction,
that no holy or sacred unity shall be p^{er}fect till you have
right and Justice restored you.

This assure your self I can easily perform, for his Ho^{ne}rs-
ness is very old, and little regarded; one now Cardinal
Pare gold beareth all the sway in the Country, as being
young, and rich in many friends: besides he hath a Concu-
bine, of whom he is far enamoured: that he desires nothing
the demandeth: his Lady is my Niece, and will do what
soever I request her: Therefore Cousin, go home to the
King, and charge him to do you Justice: which I know he
will, since he understands the Lawes are made for the use of

This (my Sovereign Lord the King) when I heard him
speak, I smiled and with great joy came hither to relate unto
you the truth: that you can charge me with any Creature
within the Court, that can charge me with any trespass
whatsoever, and prove it by testimony as the Law requireth
or if otherwise, he will oppose himself against me, person to
person, grant me but a day and equal list, and in combat I
will maintain my innocency against him: provided he be
equal to me in birth and degree: this I have heard ever hitherto
stand constant, and I hope neither in me, for me, or by me, it
shall now be broken.

When all the assembly of Nobles heard this, they were
dumb, and amazed to behold his countenance. As for the Con-
sail and the Rook, they were so scared they durst not speak, but
privately

of Reynard the Fox



privately stole away out of the Court, & being far on the plain they said, This devilish murderer hath such Art in his falsehood, that no truth can look with better countenance, which only our selves know, but have no other witnesses, therefore it is better we depart then try combat with him, which is so much too strong for us, and so away they went.

Then the Wolf, and Bruine the Bear, were very sad when they saw these two forsake the Court: whereupon the King said, If any will appeal the Fox, let him come forth, and he shall be heard: Yesterday we were laden with complaints, where are they to day? Where is the Fox ready to answer. Then said the Fox, my Sovereign Lord, absence makes impudent accusers bold, when presence daunts them, as your Highness may see both by the Cony and the Hare: O what it is to trust the malice of these Cowards! and how soon they may confound good men: but for me it matters not; nevertheless had they (at your Majesties commandment) but ask't me for witnesses, I had quickly call'd all their offences by name.

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be hind me, for I will never make haire with charity, nor
 eter haire or compain of mine enemies: my revenge I leave
 to heaven, and Justice to your Majesties. Then said the King,
 Reynard, you speak well, if the inward hart be like the out-
 ward shew, yet I fear your grief to ret such as I can expresse
 it: At last surmountest, said the Fox: No, quoth the King,
 for I must charge you without soul treason, which is, when
 I had pardoned all your great transgressions, and you have pro-
 mised me to go a pilgrimage to the holy Land: when I had
 furnished you with mule, with staff, and all things fitting that
 holy order, then in the greatest despite you sent me back in
 the mule by Bellin the Ham, the head of Kyward the Hare, a
 thing so notoriously to my disgrace and dishonour, that no
 treason can be fouler. This you have no colour to deny, for
 Bellin, our Chaplin, at his death revealed the whole process
 and the same reward which he then gained, the same you shall
 receive, or else right shall fall me.

At this sentence Reynard grew so sore afraid that he knew
 not what to say, but looked with a pitifull countenance upon
 all his kindred which stood round about him; his colour went
 and came, & his heart fainted but none lent him either hand
 or foot to help him: then the King said, Thou dissembling
 and false Traitor, why art thou now so dumb: But the Fox
 being full of anguish, fetcht a sigh as if his heart would have
 broke, so that every beast pitied him save onely the Bear and
 the Wolf, which rejected to see his sorrow.

CHAP. 10.

How Dame Rukewaw answered for the Fox to the King, and
 of the Parable she told him.

DAME Rukewaw the she Ape, being Aunt unto Reynard,
 and a great favourite of the Queens, was much grieved
 when she saw this distraction, and it was well for the Fox
 that she was in the presence: for she was exceeding wise, and
 durst boldly speak: and therefore rising up, after reverence
 done, she said My Lord the King you ought not to be posses-
 sed with



with anger when you sit in judgment, for it becometh not
 Nobility to be void of reason: it is of ccretion which should
 onely accompany you in that season: for mine own part I
 think I know the laws as well as some which been called
 Cowards, for I read many, and put some in use: It is well
 known, I had cher in the Popes Palace a Bed of Straw,
 when

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The Moral.

By the three Apes answering for the Fox is shewed how apt weak women are to be flattered into any belief, in which they may either express their pity, for gain glory. Also it shews the verifying of the old proverb, that a friend in Court is ever worth a pound in a mans purse. By the violence is shewed the true nature of a woman that evermore turns into excrements, and so she may do the good or evil she intends, will not keep any thing concealed which may any way work for purpose, nor yet any thing unguessed which may disgrace those that are of the contrary faction, as may appear by the tale of the man

When other Beasts lay in the bare ground, and I was ever instructed to speak freely without interruption, because I talked no hepe to my experience. It is Seneca's opinion, that Princes are bound to do justice to all men in many ways without, or with any partiality. I do not think but if every man which standeth here should call to account all the actions of his life, he could not chuse but pity much the estate of my poor kinsman Reynard, and therefore I will ever pique to know himself, for none so sure but they may fall, and for him that never erred, he is so good he needeth no amendment. To do amiss and mend it by counsel, is humane and manly: but to trespass and still gallop forward in insiquity, is doubtful and unsufferable: the holy Book saith, be merciful and judicious, least ye be judged. And in another place when the Philistines brought a woman taken in adultery, and would have stoned her to death, asked the Lord what he said thereto; he answered, Which of you is without sin let him cast the first stone at her: But they all departed and left her: In mine opinion it is so here to day, for here be many that find straws in others eyes, but see not the beams in their own: he that falleth off, and in the end ariseth and cometh to mercy, cannot be said to be damned; goodness never forsaketh her own servants. This counsel would some take to their hearts, the day would not appear so dark as it hath to my Cousin Reynard. It is well known that both his Grand-father and Father ever bare greater reputation in this Court, then either Ruine or Illegitimacy, of their whole generation. Alas when have their counsels or wisdoms been worthy to have held comparison with those of my cousin Reynards, whyle the passages of the world are to them Prophecies which they understand not: & the Court is turned topsie turvy by his absence: the evil are now advanced, and the good suppressed: but how this can long endure I see not. Since the end of their labour is but the ruine of their Majesty.

To this I, as the King made his answer: Dame, had the Fox done that offence to you, he hath done to others, your excuse would couch in another name, you cannot blame me to hate

of Reynard the Fox.

hate him, since it is onely he hich breaketh my Flawes and
 covenants; you have heard him accused of theft, murder, and
 treason, how can you then defend him? if you will not make
 him your saint, then set him upon a Altar, and so him to roast,
 but believe it there is no one good thing in him, and howebeit
 you imagine, yet feare him, and you shall find him rotten &
 deformed, there is neither kin nor friend (but your self)
 that will assist him, and therefore your violence draws my
 greater wonder. What companion hath he that ever the dead
 by his society, or whom hath he smiled on, that his tail hath
 not after dashed out the eye off.

To this the she Ape replied: my Lord, I love him, and
 have ever boyn him a singular reverence and I can well re-
 count one noble and good action he did in your presence; for
 which then you thanked him, though now forgotten: yet the
 bravest thing should ever weigh the most, and men should
 keep a measure in their affections and not hate, nor love with
 violence, since constancy is the greatest ornament of a
 princely nature. We should not praise the day till the even-
 ing come, nor is good counsel available, but to those which
 mean to pursue it.

I remember about some two years since, there came to this
 Court a man and a Serpent to have judgment in a doubtfull
 controversie: For the Serpent attempting to go through a
 hedge, was taken by the neck with a snare, so that there
 was no way to escape with life: A certain man passing by,
 the Serpent called and cried unto him, and desired his help, or
 else he should perish presently. The man taking pity of him
 said: if thou wilt faithfully promise me neither to do me
 hurt with thy tooth or tail, or other poison about thee, I will
 release thee. The Serpent presently swore he would not net-
 ther at that time, nor any time hereafter: so the man unloos-
 ed him, and set him free, and they went forth and travelled
 together a long season.

At the last the Serpent grew exceeding hungry, and lying
 upon the man, offered to kill him: but the man started after,
 and said: What meanest thou to do? hast thou forgotten

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thine oath? the serpent replied me: but I may suffice him the
 since I am compelled thereto by hunger, which cancelleth all
 obligations. When the man saith if it be so yet give me leave
 to live till the day mor: with the next passenger, which may
 judge the contrary.

The serpent agreed thereto, so they travelled till they met
 it.

of Reynard the Fox

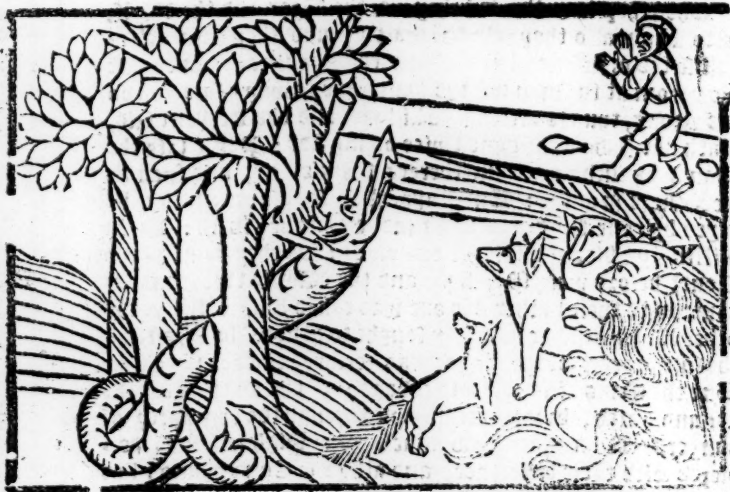
with Tisellin the Raven, and Slinopere his son: to whom relating the difference, the Raven adjudged that the Serpent should eat the man, hoping that he and his son should get a share also. But the man said, how shall he that is a robber and lives by blood, judge this cause? It must not be one but others, and such as know both Law and Equity, that must judge this contention: The Raven is neither just, nor indifferent.

Then they travelled till they met the Bear, and the Wolf, unto whom also they told the matter, and they adjudged against the man likewise. Then the Serpent began to cast his venom at the man, but the man leaped away & said, you do me wrong, thus to attempt to kill me: and the Serpent said, Hath not Judgment gone twice on my side? Yes (said the Man) by such as are murderers themselves, and such as never kept promise: But I appeal to the Court, let me be tried by your King and what judgement he giveth: I will willingly abide. To this all consented: So they came to the Court before your Majesty, and the Wicwicks two Children came with their father, the one was called Empey Bely, the other Navel-fall, because they sought to devour the Man. So the full processe of the matter was declared to your Majesty: But the Mans kindness and covenant, the Serpents danger and Faith, breach occasioned through the extremity of hunger. Remember how much your Highness was perplexed with their difference, and all your Counsel also: For the Mans sorrow, the Serpents hunger, the Mans goodness, and the Serpents ingratitude, equally raiseth much pity in your bosome. But in the end such doubts rose, that not any in your Court was able to Judge it. At the last, when no help could be found, then you commanded my kinsman Reynard to settle the business: then was he Oracle of the Court, no; was any thing received, but what he propounded: But he told your Majesty it was impossible to give the true Judgment according to their relations: but if he might see the Serpent in what manner he was fettered, and the greatness of his anger, then he knew well how to give Judgment therefor.

The pleasant History

therein. Then you commended him, and called by the title of Lord Reynard, approving that to be done which he had spoken.

Then went the man & the Serpent to the place where the Serpent was snared, and Reynard commanded the Serpent to be fastned as befoze in the snickle, which being done then said your Majesty, Reynard, what Iudgment will you now



give? And he replied, they are now my Lord in the same estate they were befoze at their first encounter, they have neither won nor lost: therefore this is my censure if it be your Majesty's pleasure, if the man will now loose and unbind the Serpent upon the same promise and oath made formerly unto him, he may at his pleasure: But if he think that hunger or other inconvenience will make him break his Faith, then may the man go freely to blite him he will, and have the Serpent bound and enthralled as he first found him, for it is fit that ingratitude be so repaid. This Iudgement your Majesty

of Reynard the Fox

As they applauded for the most excellent, and held the wisdom of the Fox unlimitable, fearing him the preserver of your honour. When did ever the Bear or Wolf the like? they can howl of scold, steal, rob, and eat fat morsels, make their guts crack with others ruines: and condemn him to death which takes but a Chicken: but them selves which kill Kings, Dukes, and Princes: O they go safe, and be accounted as wise as Solomon, Avicen, or Aristotle, and these deeds and statutes must be read for monuments. But if they come where virtuous is to be exercised, they are the first that retreat and let the simple go for most, whilst they follow in the retreat with shame and cowardise. These my Lord and the like are the souls of these corrupt times, yet destroy Towns, Castles, Lands and people: nor care they whose House burneth, so they may warm them by the fire: for it is their profit at which their aim bendeth. But Reynard the Fox and all his family have ever made the honour of the King their renown and advancement, and applied their Counsel to do him service, not pride and boasting: this hath been and is his exercise, though it now be thanklesse, but since I hope will produce whose me it is greatest: Your Majesty says his kindness is fallen from him and start at his Fozenne: would any but your Highnesse had affirmed it, you should then have seen there could not be a thing of greater falsehood: But your grace may say your pleasure, nor will I in any way oppose you: for to him that so durst do, would both he and we bend our forces. It is known we dare fight, nor are we descended of any base generation: Your Highnesse may call to mind the worth of our Pedigree, and how dearly from time to time they have respected him, willing ever to lay down their lives and goods for the safety of their noble kinsman Reynard, for my own part I am one my self, and all he I am the Wife of another, yet for him I will not stick to spend my dearest blood. Besides, I have three full grown Children, which are known valiant and strong in arms, yet for his sake I would adventure them all to the uttermost peril. Albeit I love them with that dear affection that no other

The pleasant History

th. r doth exceed me: my first son is called Bitelas whiche
is most active and nimblye, my second Fulrump, the third is a
daughter called Heranet, a girl that can look a mans head,
and pick out lye more nimbly then all the Combs in Chyt-
tendon: and these thre are loving and deare to one another:
and with that she called them toth unto her, and said, Come



my dear Chyllozen, and stand with your kinsman the po-
ble Reynard, and with you come all the rest of our ancient fa-
mily, and be all Petitioners to the King, that he will do to
Reynard the equity of his Law, and Kingdom. Then pre-
sently came forth a world of other Beasts as the Squirrel,
and the Ferret: for they love Pullaen as well as Reynard
doth: Then came the Otter and Penecruse his wife, whiche I
had almost forgotten, because in former time they had taken
part with the Bear against the Fox, but now they were not
but obey Dame Rukewaw, for they stood in awe of her
wisdom and greatness: and with these came above twenty
other

of Reynard the Fox

her beasts for her sake, and stood by Reynard. Then came also Dame Auro and her two sisters, the ^{white} cat and the black the Ass, the Weasel, the Mole, the cat, and many others, to the number almost of an hundred, & stood by Reynard in such affection, as if his trouble did equally concern them. Then said the the Duke, my Lord the King, now you may see that my kinsmen both friends which dare avow him, and we are your true and loyal Subjects, which will never fail to do you faithful service. Therefore let us with one voice beg of your Majesty, that Reynard may have Justice, and if he be not able to disprove his adversary, and clear the crimes imputed against him, let the Law pass upon him, for we will not murmur to see his destruction.

Then said the Queen to Rukenaw: Thus much I told unto his Majesty yesterday, but his anger was so great, he would not give ear to me. Also the Lords said, Sir, you must judge according to wisdom: for to be governed by will is tyrannous and ignoble. Then answered the King, it is true you inform me; but the disgrace done to my particular self in Kaywards death and others informations robbed me of patience, that I had no leisure to lay back either to Law or reason: Therefore now let the Fox speak boldly, and if he can justify himself of the crime laid against him, I shall gladly restore him his liberty, and the rather for you his dear friends sake, whom I have ever found faithful and loyal.

How infinitely glad was the Fox when he heard these words, and said in himself thanks be unto noble Aunt a thousand times, thou hast put me now blossoms on my dyed Roses, and set me in a fair path to liberty. I have one word yet to dance on: and I doubt not but to use my art of dissimulation so bravely, that this day shall be remembered for my recovery and victory.

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CHAP. 21.

How Reynard excused himself of Keywards death, and all other imputations, got the Kings favour, and made relation of certain Jewels.



Then spake Reynard the Fox to the King, and said: Alas my Soberaign Lord, what is that you say? Is good Keyward the Hare dead? O where is Bellin the Ram, or what did he bring to your Majesty at his return? For it is certain I delivered him three rich and inestimable Jewels, I would not for the wealth of India they should be obtained from you: The chief of them I directed to you my self, says the King, the other two to my Soberaign Lady the Queen. But (says the King) I received nothing but the head of poor murdered Keyward, for which I executed the Ram, having confessed the deed to be done by his advice and counsel. At this truth (said the Fox,) then too is me that ever I was

of Keynara the Fox

born, for there are lost the goodliest Jewels that ever were
in the possession of any Prince living: would I had eyes
when you were thus defrauded. For I know it will be the
death of my wife, nor will we ever henceforth esteem me.
Then said to the Apotheosis, Dear Prophet why should you sorrow
thus for transitory wealth? Let them go, only discourse
what manner of Jewels they were, it may be we shall finde
them again: If not, the Magician M. Akam: Ma La-
bour his Books, and search on the corners of the earth.
Besides, whosoever obtains them, shall be curs'd in all Partis-
es, till he restore them to the Kings Majesty. And thus (said
the Fox) do not perswade your self so, for whosoever hath
them will not restore them to gain an Empire, they are so
goodly and precious: yet your words do something appease
me. But whom shall we trust in this corrupt age, when e-
ven sanctity it self walks maskt and mistaken? And then
fetching a deep sigh with which he guiled his dissimulation,
he proceeded on and said, Hearken all you of my flock and
lineage, for I will here discover what these rich Jewels
were, of which both I and the King are defrauded. The
first of them (and which indeed I intended to his Majesty)
was a Ring of fine and pure gold, and within this Ring next
the finger were engraven letters enanell'd with Azure &
Sables, containing three Hebrew names. For my own part
I could neither read nor spell them. But M. Abrion of
Tiere, the excellent linguist, who knoweth the nature of all
manner of Beasts, Weeds and Minerals, to this famous
Jew I shewed the Ring once, and he assured me that they
were those three names which Seth brought out of Para-
dise, when he brought to his Father Adam the Dominion
of the Earth. And whosoever shall wear these three names about
him, shall never be hurt by Thunder or Lightning, neither
shall any witchcraft have power over him: He shall not
be tempted to do any sin, neither shall heat or cold ever
annoy him. Upon the top of the Ring was a tall a most
precious Stone of three several colours; The first like
red Coral, and glittering like fire, and that with such
brightness, that if one had occasion to journey by night,

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The Morall

By the relation which the Fox made of the Jewels, and their several vertues and riches, is shewed the policy of the wicked which are ever prepared of those baits which they know will soonest catch the minds of them they are to intangle, as welsh health, honour and vertue, all which be lodged in those Jewels. As for the storie contained in them the Fox doth moralize them himself, shewing in them severally, the amputations he would have the Lyon know to be in his enemies, & such examples are evermore bitter, and work more in the minds or the hearts, then any violent speech or in-



the light thereof was so great as that at Noon day. The other colour was white and cleare, as if it had been brastles, and the picture of it was to cure any blemish, or soyness in the eyes, or any part of the body: Also (by breaking the place against the chere with ball) it presently cures all manner of swelling, heat, or any sickness whatsoever: And yether it

were

of Reynard the Fox.

were blemish, weakness of stomach, chollick, stone, strang-
 lion, fistula, or Canker, either outwardly applied as afore-
 showed, or inwardly by steeping the stone in water, and then
 drinking the same. The last colour was green like grass mixt
 with a few small spots of purple: and the learned affirmed
 for truth, that whosoever wears this stone about him, could
 never be vanquish't by his enemies, and that no creature, were
 he never so strong and hardy but would yield unto him, & he
 should be victor day and night in all places. Again, as far as
 one boze it tacking, into what company soever he chanced
 (and he his worst enemies) yet should he be of them infinitely
 beloved nor should any danger or ill turn be remembered: also
 if one should be naked in a vast wild field, against an hundred
 armed enemies, yet should not his heart fail him, but he
 should come off with honour and victory: onely he must be
 nobly bred, and of no churlish disposition; for the King gave
 no brieve to any which was not a true Gentleman. So will
 these virtues considered, I thought my self unworthy to keep
 it: and therefore I sent it to you my Lord the King, know-
 ing you to be the excellent of all creatures living, and one on
 whom all our lives depend, and therefore fittest to be guarded
 with so rich a Jewel.

This Ring I found in my Fathers treasure, and in the
 same place also I found a Comb, and a glass Sphour, which
 my wife desired of me: they were Jewels of great wonder,
 and admiration: these were sent to my Lady the Queen, be-
 cause of her grace and mercy extended towards: To speak of
 the Comb; it can never be too much praised, for it was made
 of the bone of a noble Beast named Panthera, which lived be-
 tween the greater India and earthly Paradise, he is so goodly &
 fair of colour, that there is no beautiful colour under heaven,
 but some splendour thereof appears in him: also the smell of
 him is so delicately sweet and wholesome that the very savant
 curet all infirmities; and for his excellent beauty and rare
 odour, all other beasts attend and follow him, for he is the
 physician to all their sicknesses. When Panthera hath one
 fair hour beyond and this, which whosoever this beast is

vedion what-
 soever. By the
 repeating of
 his and his Fa-
 thers services,
 is shewed the
 subtle insinua-
 tion of offen-
 ders, which to
 exonerate pre-
 sent times, call
 to mind their
 good deeds
 past, nor so
 much for the
 memory of the
 good example,
 as to beg a
 new reward
 though it have
 been neev. so
 often paid for;
 for noble spi-
 rits are ever
 a tender feel-
 ing, and are
 soon toucht
 with the re-
 membrance of
 any good turns
 received, for it
 is an obligati-
 on they sel-
 dom cancel.

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that, all the virtues of the whole Beast do rest in that bone
which can never be broken, neither ever rot, consume or perish



either by fire, water, or other violence: yet it is so light a small feather may posse it: the smell of it hath that virtue that whosoever smells it, taketh delight in no other smell whatsoever, and they are presently eased of all manner of diseases & infirmities, and the heart is cheerful and merry ever after.

This Comb is polished like unto fine silver, and the teeth of it be small and freest, and between the great teeth and the small, in a large field of space, there is graven many an Image subtilly made, and cunningly enamelled about with fine gold: the field is decked with Sable and Silver, and enamelled with Cobalt and Azure; and therein is contained the story how Venus, Iuno, and Pallas strove for the golden Ball in the meane in Ida, and how it was put to Paris to give it to the fairest of them.

Paris at that time was a Shepherd, and kept his Flock with

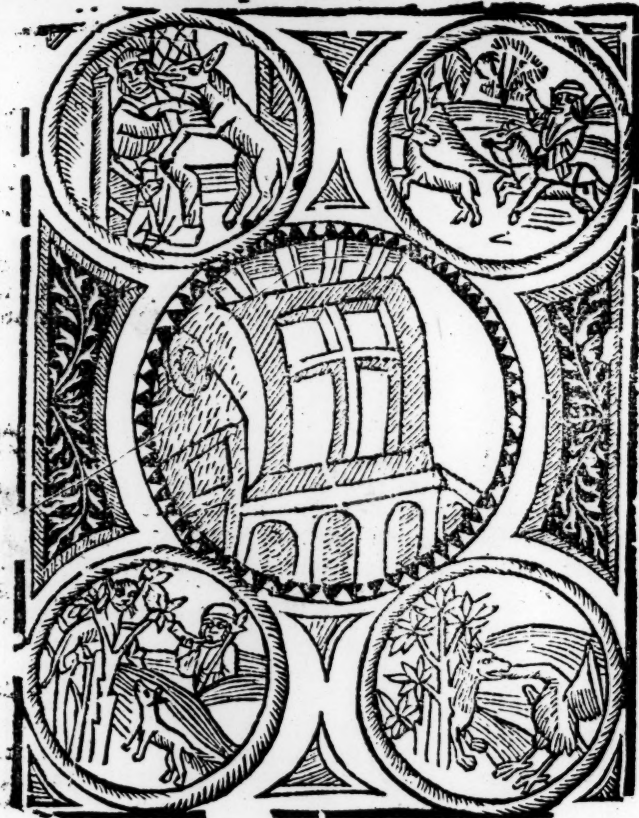
of Reynard the Fox

With Oenon on that hill, and as soon as he had receiv'd the Ball, Iuno promised, if he would bestow it on her she would make him the richest man in the world. Pallas said, that she might have it, to make him the wisest man in the world, and the most fortunate against his enemies. But when Venus said, What needest thou wealth, wisdom, or valour? Art thou not Priamus's Son, and Hector's Brother, which have all Asia under their power? Art thou not one of the heirs of mighty Troy? come give me the Ball, and I will give thee the goodliest treasure of the world, and that shall be the fairest Lady breathing, she, whose like no Sun shall ever again behold: so shalt thou be richer then riches, and climb above all in glory: that is the wealth none can praise too much, since beauty is that heavenly Charm, which turns all things in man to joy and contentment.

When Paris heard this, he desired to know the Lady; and Venus said, It is Hellen of Greece, the wife of King Menelaus, she that is the gem of the world, the treasure of beauty, and the glory of all eyes which did behold her: then presently Paris gave her the Ball, and confirmed her fairer then the other Goddesses. When another place was figured how he won Hellen, brought her to Troy, the solemnity at the marriage, the honour at the triumphs, and all things else contained in that large story.

Now for the Glass mirror, it was not inferior to either of the other: for the glass which stood thereon was of such virtue, that men might see and perceive therein whatsoever was done within a mile the end, whether it were, actions of men or beasts, or any thing else the owner should desire to know, and whosoever but gazed thereon, if he had any malady whatsoever, it was presently cured. So great were the virtues of this rare Glass, that would it not if I had cause to think of the loss: for the wood in which this Glass stood, was right & fast, and is called Olive, it will last ever: for worms, dust, wet, nor time can consume it; and therefore King Solomon reared his Temple with the same: the value exceeded far the value of gold, it is like to the wood Hebenar, of which King Crampas

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Crampart made a Horse, for the love of the most beautiful
daughter of King Morcadigos, This Horse was made with
such Art wth him, that whosoever rode on it, if he pleased, he
would run above an hundred miles in less then an hour,
which being approved by Clamades the Kings son; who not
believing in the Engine, and being young & lusty, leapt up &

th^t

of Reynard the Fox

the hoxse and presently Crampart turning a pin that stood in the vye of the Engine, mised, and went out of the Palace throug the window, and in the first minure he was gone at least an mile, Clamades was much affrighted at the wonder and imagined (as the Rozy said) that his Hounds neber have returned back again: but of his long journey, much fear, great trouble, and infinite joy, here he had learned to manage and govern the weeden hound. I leade to speak for tediousness sake, onely the high virtues of all issued from the wood.

Of this wood the Glasse case was made, being larger than the Glasse by half a foot and more square, upon which verge was decyphred others many strange Histories, in gold, in silver, in Sabas, Behem, Gyre & Cynope: and these colours were very curiously wrought and interlaid together, and under each History the words so engraven and framed, that any man might read the whole Story: believes it, the world neber produced a thing of greater worth, luster or pleasure. In the upper part thereof stood a Horse in his natural glory, fat, fair, and fiery, which brayed a stately Hart which ran before him: but seeing he could not overtake the Hart in swiftness, at which he infinitely obtained, he went to the Hearde-man standing by, and toid him if he would help him to take a Hart which he would shew him, he should have all the profit of the conquest, as the horns, skin and flesh: then the Hearde-man asked him what means he should use to get him: the Horse said, mount upon my back, and I will bear thee after him, till with tiring we take him. The Hearde-man took his offer, and bestriding the Horse followed the Dear: but he fled away so fast and got to much ground of the Horse, that with much labour the Horse grew weary, and he bid the Hearde-man alight, for he would rest himself a while: But the Hearde-man said, I have a bysle on thy back, and spurs on my heels, therefore knowe thou art now my servant: neither will I part with thee, but govern thee as seems best to my pleasure. Thus the Horse brought himself into thraldom, and was taken in his own net, for no creature

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path a greater adversary than his own envy, and many which labour the hurt of others, still fall upon their own knives.

In another part was figured an Ake, and an Hound which were both the servants of a rich man: This man loved his Hound exceedingly, and would oft play with him, and suffer the Dog to follow, and leap upon him, and now and then to lick him about the mouth. Now when Bauldwin the Ake saw this, he began to envy the Hound, and said, What say I to my Master in this foul Hound, that he suffers him thus to leap upon him and kiss him? I see no profitable service he dooth him, I labour, beat and pray, and do more service in one week than the Dog and his whole kind are able to do in a year, and yet have I not the tithe of his labours: for he sitteth by his trencher, eats the fat of his meat, and lyes on Carpets and Pillows: when I that do all a few onely words, Nettles and Whistles: men, I will no longer endure it, but I will strive to have my Lords favour as much as the Hound, if not in greater measure. When the spicer of the house came home, and the Ake lifting up his tail, leapt with his forefeet on his shoulders, and bayed and grined and put forth his mouth to kill him, and used such rude mannerly action, that he rubbed all the skin from his spicers ears, and almost overthrew him: so that the man was forced to cry out help help, for this Ake will kill me. Then came in his servants with staves, and beat the Ake so exceedingly that he was almost slain: which done, he returned to his gall again, and was an Ake as he was before. In the same manner, they that do envy and spite at other, will use, if they receive the same reward, it is nothing more than is due to their merit: for an Ake is an Ake and will bay to eat Whistles: and where Akes govern, there order is never observed, for they have no eye either on this Ake, or beyond their own private profit; yet sometimes they are advanced, the more is the pity.

In another part was figured the story, how my father and I were the Cat (stables) together, and had sworn by their

troth, that neither fox nor hound shall depart one from the other: but it happened on a time that some Hunters coming over the fields with a kennel of hounds, from which they fled apace, for their lives were in danger. Then said the Fox, Tybert wither shall we fly, for the Hunters have espied us? for my own part I have a thousand wiles to escape them, and as long as we abide together we shall need no fear them. But the Cat began to sigh, and was exceeding afraid and said, Reynard, what needs many wiles I have but one wile, and that must help me, and so he clambered up to the top of an high Tree, where he looks among the leaves, that neither Huntsman nor Hound could hurt him, and left my Father to abide the whole hazard of the whole kennel pursued him horns and halloes echoing after him: Kill the Fox, Kill the Fox.

When Tybert saw, he mocked my Father, and said, Hold cousin Reynard, it is time to let loose all your wiles, for if your wit fail you, I fear your whole body will perish. This my Father hearing from him he most trusted, & being then in the height of pursuit wearied, and almost spent, he let his male slip from his shoulders, to make himself so much lighter, yet all availed not, for the Hounds were so swift they had caught him, had he not by chance espied a hole, into which he entered, and escaped the Hounds and Huntsmen. Thus you may see the false faith of the Cat, whose like there be many living at this time, and though this might well excuse me from loving the Cat, yet my souls health and charity binds me to the contrary, and I wish him no hurt though his misfortunes shall never be grievous to me: not so much for hatred as the remembrance of his injuries which often contends against my reason.

Also in that Approz stands another History of the Woodcock how upon a time he found upon a Heath a dead Hoyle, whose flesh being eaten away, he was fain to gnaw and devour the bones, which he did with such greediness that swallowing them too hastily down, one fell so close his throat that he was almost choked, and hardly escaped with life: whereupon

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besought every place for the cunningest Surgeons, promising them the great gifts to ease his torment : but having lost much labour, in the end he met with the Crane, and brought him in his long neck and bill to help him, and he would highly reward him. The Crane greedy of gain, put in his head into the Wolfs throat, and brought out the bone. The Wolf started at the pain, and cried aloud, thou hast me, but I do forgive thee, yet do it not again I charge thee, for at anothers hands I would not bear it : When the Crane said, Sir Isegrim, go and be frolick, for you are whole, I ask for no more but the reward you promised me ; How (saith the Wolf) what impudence is this ? I suffer and have cause to complain, yet he will be rewarded, he will not so much as thank me for his life, but forgets that his head was in my mouth, and how I suffered him to draw it out again without hurting, albeit he put me to exceeding much pain : I suppose it is I which deserve the reward, and not the Crane.

Thus you may see the fashion of ungratefull men in these dayes, however they reward good with evil : for whereas pride is exalted, their honour is ever laid in the dust. There be a Wolfe which ought to reward, and do good to those that have advanced them, which now complain, and make those advancements injuries but the garrison will follow : for it is the wisest counsel, that whosoever will go about to chastise another, should ever be sure of his own cleanness : All this, and a World more then I can well remember, was curiously brought on this Glass : for the Work-master thereof was the cunningest and profoundest Clerk in all Sciences that ever breathed. And because the Jewels were so good and precious for me to keep : Wherefore I sent them to the King and Queens Majestie, as a present to witness my faith and service : He that had seen what sorrow my children made when I sent the Glass away would have wondered, for by reason of the great virtue therein, they oft gazed in the same, both to behold themselves, and to see how their cleathing and apparel became them.

of Reynard the Fox

A little did I then imagine that good Kayward was so near his death, for then but himself, and Bellin the Ram, I knew no messengers worthy to carry such a rich present, But I will search the whole World, but I will find the murderer, his murder cannot be hid. It may be he is in this presence which knows what is become of Kayward, albeit we do conceal it: for many wheels walk like Saint's, yet the greatest wonder of all is (which troubled me most,) that my Lord the King should see, that my Father nor my self never did good. But the troubles of affairs may well breed forgetfulness in things, otherwise your Majesty might call to mind how when the King your Father lived, and you were a Prince not above two years old, my Father came from the School at Mounpeller, where he had studied five years the Art of Physick, and was expert in all the principles thereof, and famous in those days, that he wore cloaths of silk and a golden Chale, But when he was come to the Court, he found the King in great extremity of sickness (which was no little grief unto him, for he loved the King most dearly) and the King rejoiced at his sight, and would not suffer him to be out of his presence. All others might walk whither they would, only he must ever be near him. When said you Father, Reynard I am exceeding sick, and I feel my sickness increasing. My Father answered, My Lord, here is an Urinal, make water therein and as soon as I behold your state, I will give mine opinion. The King did as he was admitted (for he treated not any equal with him) When said my Father: My best Lord, if you will be eased of your grief, you must needs eat the Liver of a Wolf a seven years old, or else your disease is incurable.

The Wolf at that time stood by your Father, but said nothing, where upon the King said. Sir Legrim, you hear how there is nothing which can cure me but your Liver. The Wolf replied: not so my Lord, for I am not yet full five years old. It is no matter (answered my Father) let him be opened, and when I see the Liver, I will tell you if it be medecinable: Then was the Wolf carried to the West-

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his and his Liber taken out, which the King eat, and was
 presently cured of his sicknesse. When the King thanked my
 Father and commanded all his Subjects on pain of death,
 from thenceforth to call him **Spaner Reynard**, so he abode
 till he: the King, walked by his side, & was taised in all
 things, and the King gave him (for an honour) a Garland of
 Roses which he must ever wear upon his head. But these
 remembrances are all lost & gone, and his enemies are now
 onely adharced, **virtue is put back**, and **Innocence** lies in
 so roine: for when baseness and cobetousnes are made Com-
 manders, they neither know themselves, nor look at the los-
 nes from whence they are risen: They have no hearts for pi-
 ty, nor ears for the poore mans cause, Gold is the goal they
 run to, and gifts the God which they worship. What great
 mans Gate doth not now lock up Cobetousnesse? where is
 not flattery entertained, and what Prince takes hate at this
 own draffes? But should greatness need their honest service
 well might they starbe ere they could gain that imployment
 For like Wolves they had rather see their Masters dye then
 lend them the least part of their Liber.

This my Lord was an accident which fell in your youth,
 and you may well forget it: Yet (without boasting) I my self
 may say, I have done to you both honour and service, and you
 haply also forget this which I will repeat, which I vow I do
 not to upbraid your Majesty, for you are worthy of more then
 your can tender, and my uttermost is but the rent of a loyall
 Subject, which am ever bound by the Laws of God and Na-
 ture to perform.

So it was, that one a time I segim the Wolf and I had
 gotten a swine under us, and by reason of his extream loud
 cpying, we were compelleth to bite him to death. At which
 time your self came out of a Grove unto us, and saluted us
 friendly, saying: That you and the Queen your wife which
 came after you, were both exceeding hungry, and intreated us
 to give you part of our gettings: I segim then whispored in
 such manner, that none could understand him, but I speak out
 aloud: With all my heart my Lord, and were it better then

of Reynard the Fox

it is, it were too mean for your service. But I segrim accom-
pning to his want departed grumbling, and took half of the
Dowry, giving you and the Queen but one poor quarter, the
other he himself unmannerly deboured, and left me for my
share but poor half of the Lungs. When your Majesty had
eaten your part, you were still hungry, but the Wolf would
bestirre none: so that you reacht him a blow with your foot,
which tore all the skin from about his ears, so that he ran a-
way crying and howling with all extremity. But your Ma-
jesty commanded him to return again speedily, and bring you
more meat, but he went away grumbling. Then I besought
your Majesty, that I might go with him: and I will remem-
ber your answer. So away we went together, his ears
dropping blood all the way as he went: In the end we took
a Calf, and when your Majesty saw us bring it, you laugh-
ed and said to me, I was a swift Huntsman, and could finde
my game quickly; and therefore I was fit to serve in time of
necessity: Then you bade me to divide it, and I did it and
gave one half thereof to your Majesty, to other half to the
Queen: As for the Maggets, Liver, Lungs and all the
inwards, I sent them to the young Princes your Children.
As for the head, I gave it to Isegrim the Wolf, and took unto
my self but the fat onely. Then said your Majesty, ha Rey-
nard, who taught you to make these courteous divisions. My
Lord (answered I) that did this piece which sit here with
the bloody pate, for he lost his skin for his too much in equal-
lity, and for covetousness hath reapt nothing but shame and
dishonour. But it matters not, for there be many Wolves
in these dayes, that would even eat up their best friends and
kindred: Nay if they had power, even your Majesty also,
for they make no respect either of friend or enemy. But we
to that Commonwealth where such have the upper hand and
government.

My gracious Lord, this and many such like actions as this
have I done for your Majesty, which were it not for tedious-
ness sake I could well repeat. But they are all now cast out
of your remembrance, but time and my loyalty I hope will
one

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one day again recall them. I have seen the day when no matter was in them in the Court without my advice and consent, though now that judgment is not so reputed: yet it may be, the same reputation may tying up again, and be believed as firmly as before, as long as it comes not from Justice, which is the only thing I aim at. For if any one can charge me otherwise, and prove it by witness here I stand to induce the uttermost the Law can insist upon me: But if malice only slander me without witness, I crave the combat according to the Law and instance of the Court, when said the King, Reynard you say well, nor know I any thing more of Kywards death then the bringing of his head unto me by Bel. lin the Ram; therefore of it I here acquit you, my dear Lord (said the Fox) I humbly thank you: yet his death so grievous unto me, I cannot let it pass so easily; I remember my heart was heavy at their departure, and I was ready to sink to the ground, which was a certain presage of the loss which happened.

Their words, and the sad looks of the Fox, so amazed all the beholders, that they could not chuse but believe all that he uttered, so that every one bemoaned his loss, and pittied his sorrow. But the King and Queen were most touched with the same, and then intreated him that he would make diligent search for the finding of them out, for his pines had stricken them far in love with the Jewels: And because he told them, he had sent those Jewels unto them (though they never saw them) yet they gave him as great thanks, as if they had been in their safe possession, and desired him he would be a means they might be restored to them again.

of Reynard the Fox

CHAP. 22.

How Reynard made his peace with the King, and how *Isegrim* the Wolf complained of him again.

The Fox understood their meaning & crawing well, and though he little meant to perform what they intreated



The pleasant History

yet he thanked the King and Queen for the comfort they gave him in his great extremity, vowing no to rest neither night nor day, but to scarce all the Corners of the Earth till he had found what was become of those Jewels: also intreating his Majestie that if they should be concealed in such places where he might be withstood by force, so as neither his prayers nor power might attain unto them, that then his goodness would assist him: both because it was an occasion which concerned him nearly, as also a thing required from his Office, being in Act of perfect Justice, to punish these and murder, both which were contained in this action.

When the King answered him, that so soon as it should be known where they were, no help or assistance should be wanting. The King gave the King humble thanks, for now he had gotten all his purposes to the wished end he expected, and by his false tale and flattery, had so fastened the King unto him that now he might go freely whither he pleased, and none should dare to complain upon him: onely Ilegimus the Wolf stood all this while infinitely displeased, and not able to contain his anger any longer; he said, O my Lord the King! is it possible your Majestie should be so much churlish or weak of himself, as to fix your trust upon the falshood of this ever detesting merchant, which hath nothing but shadows and Chymera's wherewith to lurchant you? He not so easily seduced, he is a witch all covered and besmeared with murder and treason, and even to your own face hath made a feast of your Majestie. For my own part I am glad he is here in your presence, and I intend to ring him such a peal of contrary nature, that all the lies he can invent, shall not tear him away with safety.

So it is (my deare Lord) that this dissembling and false Traitor not long since did betray my wife most shamefully: for it hapned upon a winters day, that they two travelled together through a very great Water, and he persuaded my wife that he would teach her a singular Art how to catch fish with her tail, by setting it hanging angle-wise in the water a
good

of Reynard the Fox

god while : toherunto he said, there wou'd to much fishing
than it cleave, that half a dozen of them should not be able to



about it. The silly fool my wife (supposing all to be truth
which come from him) went presently into the mill up to
her belly before she came to the water; and coming into the
dept,

The pleasant History

depth of the water (as he stretched her) she held her tall down still in the water, expecting there when the fish should cleave to: but the weather being sharp and frosty, and the flood there so long, that her tail was frozen fast to the Ice, so that all the force she had was not able to pull it out: but when this ugly villain beheld this, he presently leapt upon her and ravished her, in such brattle and shamefull manner, that no modest ear is able to hear the obscenity of the action. My poor wife being disarmed of all resistance, well might she shrink, cry, and feed up in the bryne of her own tears: but all to no purpose, the deed was done, and the villain triumphed. This no sinpudore can make him deny, for I came and took him in the action. How much jealousie, grief, and fury afflicted me at that instant, I was even distracted to behold them: and crying, Reynard, villain what art thou doing: but he taking me so near approaching, presently leapt upon her and ran his away: so I went unto her with much sorrow and heaviness, having a world of labour ere I could break the Ice about her: and in despite of all my cunning, yet she was compelled to leave a piece of her tail behind her: and indeed we both escaped hardly with our lives. For by reason of the great anguish she endured, she barked so loud that the people of the next village rose up and came with staves, and bills, with flails and pitch-forks, and the wives with their distaffs; and so fiercely assaulted us: crying, kill, kill, and slay, slay, that I was never in so desperate a taking. We stave among the rest, which was strong, and swift of foot, hurt us sore with a Pike-staff, and had not the night befriended us, we had never escaped that danger. From hence we came into a field full of Brooms and Brambles, where we hid us from the fury of our enemies. Thus my gracious Lord, you have heard how this Traitor and murderer hath used us and against the same we crave the right of your Law and Justice.

But Reynard answered and said, If this were true, I confess it would touch my near in honour and reputation: but God forbid that such a slander should be proved against me:

of Reynard the Fox

I confess I taught her to catch, and taught her how to enter the water, and never touch the mire: but her greediness so transported her when she heard me name the fish, that she ran without respect of any path or direction: and so coming into the Ice, she was there presently frozen by reason of her too long tarrying; for she had more fish than would have satisfied twenty reasonable appetites: but it is commonly said, that who all would have, all forego: for covetousness, which seldom bringseth any thing well home, yet when I saw her so fastened in the Ice, I used all my best endeavours to loosen her, and indeed was heaving and shoving about her, but to no little purpose; for by reason of her weight I was not able to move her.

How wilt thou this was in doing came I Legrim, and seeing
me to bue about her, (humble, like he most vilely slandered
me, like a profuse Whittall, which takes delight to be accou-
ted a Cuckold: but beleave it, my gracious Lord, all was
false, and his wife virtuous for any thing within my know-
ledge: whence I am perswaded, that surely his eye de-
for indeed he uttered many a grievous curse, and threatened
much revengement against me; for at more to eschew his
blasphem then fury I went my way, and he came; and with
as great ado, and as much heave and shove, he helpt her out:
which done, (tho' then almost starved with cold) ran a-
skipt up and down the fields to get them heat: and that this
is a truth which I spoken, I will willingly be depoted, for
I would not be the father of any falsehood before your Ma-
esty, to be Master of many millions: however my fortune
go, I respect nor, truth is my badge, and hath ever been the
Causin of all my Ancestors: And if there be any scruple
or doubt made of mine assertion, I ask but eight dayes
herto, that I may confer with my learned Counsel, and I
will so approve all my words by the oath and testimony of
good and sufficient witnesses, that your Majesty and your ho-
nourable Counsel shall accord to the justness of my proce-
ssation. As for the self, what have I to do to him? It
is well known already that he is a debauched and almost nota-
rious

The pleasant History

gan e. loue
very thing with
a p. e. n. c. e. of
goodness. The
Foxes con-
tempt of the
Well, shews
that the
strong hon-
p. l. c. y. consists in
disgracing the
adversary, and
calling his good
name in ques-
tion, by which
means he may
lose his life &
credit. By the
three-Wells
filling into the
Well, shews
the effects of

reus bills in, tesse both to heauen and to your Majestie, and
now lts own words witness him a base flatterer of Monarch:
therefore I defer my self to the trial of his wife: If she accuse
me, let the world hold me guilty: Provided she be made free
from her husbands whose yet any wil compell her to say any
thing, though never so unjustly.

At this, forth stept dame Arlewind the Welles wife, and
said; O Reynard, thou hast so oily a smooth tongue, and so
distr in flattery, that no man is safe from thine enchantment:
it is not once, but oft thou hast deceived me; remember but
how thou dost use me at the well with two buckets; which
hanging at one end, and running through one pulley; which
ever as one went down, the other went up: I remember
how the getting into one of them, fastest down to the bottom
of the well, and the latest in great danger and perill, so that
I ran thither with great haste, and heard the sigh and make
great moan: then asking thee how thou comest there, thou
answerst me, that thou wert there a fishing; and hast se



Of Reynard the Fox.

much fill, of which thou hast eaten so many, that thy belly was ready to break with swelling: then I asked how I might come to thee; and thou saidst, Aunt, leap into that bucket which hangeth there, and thou wilt be presently with me: which I no sooner did, but (being much heavier then thy self) I fell presently to the bottom of the well, and thou camest up to the top: at which when I seemed to be angry thou saidst; Aunt, this is but the fashion of the world: as one comes up another must go down: and so said you leapt out of the bucket, and ran your way, leaving me there all alone, where I remained a whole day, pined with hunger and starved with cold; and ere I could get out from thence, receiving so many blows, that my life was never in greater danger. The Fox replied; Aunt, though the strokes were painful unto you, yet I had rather you should have them then myself: for you are stronger, and better able to bear them. And at that time of necessity one of us could not escape them. He does Aunt, I taught you wisdom and experience, that you should not trust neither friend or foe, when the matter be premises to, is the avoiding of his own peril: For nature teacheth us to love our own welfare, and he which doth otherwise, is crowned with nothing but the title of folly.

Then said dame Arlewind to the King: I beseech your Majesty, mark how this dissembler can blow with all winds, and paint his mischiefs with false colours: a troop of times he hath brought me into these hazards. Once he betrayed me to my Aunt the She-Ape, where ere I escaped, I was fain to leave one of mine ears behind me: if the Fox care tell the truth of the story (for I know his mind to be much better; he does he is apt to catch advantage out the weakness of language) I desire no better evidence against him. Then said the Fox, willingly I will do it, and without flattery or falsehood, and therefore I beseech your Majesty lend me your Royal patience.

Then on a certain time the wolf here came to me late the evening, and complained unto me that he was exceeding hungry,

coreconflicts, which never brings nothing home but loss and danger, &c. that policy carries nor who pines, so he said in pain, as appears by the Foxes ten pining her into the Bucket. By their entering into the She-Apes Cave it showed the difference between temperance and rashness, and how far good words will prevail before rude and churlish behaviour.

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gry. (yet never saw him sule in my life) but he would ever
distinguish: at which presently I took pity of him, and said;
I was also as hungry as he: so straight went and travelled
half a day together without finding any thing; then began he
to whine and cry, and said, he was able to go no further.
Then heard by the foot of a Hathorn Tree, we espied a hole all
covered over with Myzambles, and heard a great rushing there-
in, but could not imagine the cause why: then I desired the
Wolf to go in and look if any thing were there to profit us,
(for some thing I knew there was) then said he; Cousin, I
could not creep into the hole for an hundred pounds, till I
know certainly what was therein, for there may be danger:
but if you please to attempt it, who I know hath both Art &
wit to save you. so I, I will stay here under this Tree till you
return: but I beseech you make hast, and let me know what
is therein as soon as you perceive it.

Well old my dear Lord the King, thus he hath made me
go: I slip head to go before to the hazard, and he who is
great, strong, and mighty, did abide without in peace, where-
in I expect no little friendship for I would not endure the like
danger for a Kingdom: but to proceed, I entered into the hole,
and found the way dark, long, and tedious: in the end I espied
a great light which came in on the further side of the hole, by
which I saw there lying a great She-Ape, with eyes glim-
mering and sparkling with fire, her mouth set round with
long sharp teeth, and on her hands and nails sharp as an El-
fin, or Wookin. I imagined her at first a Mazin or Ba-
boon, or else a Mercat, for a more dreadful beast I never be-
held in all my life time; and by her she lay divers of her chil-
dren, which like her self were cruel and stern of countenance:
when they saw me come towards them, they gaped wide
with their mouths upon me, so that I grew amazed, and
wished my self far from the harbour, But resolving with
my self, that now I was in, I must quit my self as well
as I could; I looked more constantly upon her, and me-
thought she appeared bigger then Ilegrim the Wolf, and the
least of her Byats much larger then my self (for a fouler
company

of Keynard the Fox.

company I never saw) they were all laid in foul litter, and
 ten and twenty with their own gifts, they were all daubed or
 clogged with their own dung, which smelt so filthy, that it
 was almost poisoned with the smell. For my own part I
 durst not but speak them fair, and therefore I said, Aunt,
 God give you many good days, and bless you and my Cous-
 sine, your pretty children: questionless they are the fairest of
 their ages that ever I beheld, and so surpass in beauty and
 perfection, that they may well be accounted of most princely
 Mus. Truly Aunt we are infinitely beholden to you that rob
 and this increase and glory to your family. For mine own
 part (dear Aunt) when I heard you were laid down and de-
 livered; I could not stay, but needs must come and visit you:
 When replied she, Cousin Keynard, you are exceeding wel-
 come: you have found me like a net, but I thank you for
 your kind visitation: you are a worthy Gentleman, and
 (tho' not the Kings Dominion) for your wit and judgment
 held of singular reputation: you do much honour to our kin-
 dred, and are famous for the means you took to their per-
 ferment: I most intreat you to take the charge of my chil-
 dren, and instruct them in the rules of knowledge and sci-
 ence, that they may know hereafter how to live in the world.
 I have thought of you ever since they were born, and resolved
 upon this, Cousin, because I knew of your perfection, and
 that you accompanied your self with none but the good and
 the virtuous.

O how glad was I when I heard those words proceed from
 her, which kindness was only because at first I called her
 Aunt, who indeed was no soul kin unto me: for my true
 Aunt indeed is only Dame Rokenaw, which standeth for-
 ver: who indeed is Mother of excellent children. Yet not-
 withstanding I answered this soul-mother: Aunt my life
 and Goods are both at your service, and what I can do for
 you might or day, shall ever be at your commandment and
 your children. Yet I most heartily wished my self far from
 them at that instant, for I was almost poisoned with their
 stink. And I pitied Hegrim, who was soe galled with
 hunger

The pleasant History

hunger all this while? and offering to take my leave, and saying that my wife will think it long till my return. She said Dear Cousin, you shall not depart till you have eaten something, I shall take it unkindly if you offer it, then rose she up, and carried me into an inner room, where was great store of all kind of Venison: both the Red Deer, Fallow Deer, and Roe: and great store of Partridge, Pheasant, and other Fowls, that I amazed much from whence such store of meat should come. Now when I had eaten sufficiently she gave me a doe and half a haunch of a Hind, to carry home to my wife, which I was ashamed to take, but that she compelled me: and so taking my leave and being intreated often to visit her, I did depart thence, much joyed that I had sped so well.

Now being come out of the Causay, I spied whereas Scgrim lay groaning piteous, and I asked him how he fared: He said, wondrous ill, and so extremely ill, that (dear Jephtha) without some meat I dye presently: then did I take compassion on him, and gave him my wifes Trencher, which preserved his life, and for which then he gave me a word of thanks, though now he hate me extremely. But as soon as he had devoured up my Venison, he said, Reynard, my dear Cousin, what sound you in the hole? believe it I am now more hungry then I was before, and this small morsell hath but sharpened my teeth to eat more. Then said I to him, Wile get you into the hole, and you shall find store of victuals, for there lieth my Aunt with her children: if you can flatter and speak her fair: you need fear no hard measure, all things will be as you would wish it.

I think (my gracious Lord) this was warning sufficient, and that which might have armed my wife spirit, but rude and barbarous beasts will never understand wisdom. And therefore they loath the policies they know not. But yet he promised to follow my counsel: so forth he went into that foul stinking hole, and found the ape in that filthy room beset, I describe, which when he saw, (being affrighted) he cried out, Who and alas, I think I am come into Hell: did

her creature ſee ſuch fearful goblins dooown them, for ſhame
dooown them, they are ſo ugly, they are able to ſcare the Devil,
why they make my hair ſtand an end with their horrid deſo-
mity. When (ſaid ſhe) Sir Iſegrim, their creation is not my
fault, let it ſuffice, they are my children, and I am their mo-
ther. For ought their beauty or hard labour to diſpleaſe you:
here was a kinsman of theirs to day, and is but newly depar-
ted, who is well known to exceed you both in birth, virtue,
and wiſdom, and he accounted them fair and lovely, for your
opinion I care not: therefore you may depart at your plea-
ſure. Then he replied (Dame) I would hate you know,
that I would eat of your meat, it is much better beſtowed on
me, then on thoſe ugly Urchins. But ſhe told him, ſhe had
no meat: Yes (ſaid he) here is meat enough, and with that
offering to reach at the meat, my Aunt ſtart up with her
children, and ran at him with their ſharp nails, and ſo ſlained
him, that the blood ran about his ears, and I heard him cry e-
xtreamly, that it appeared he had no defence, but to
run out of the hole as faſt as he could. For indeed he came
out both extremely beaten, and extremely bitten, and all his
ſkin, ſhathed like a Spaniſh Jerkin: and one year left behind
as a token of his manners.

This when I ſaw, I asked him if he had ſatisfied ſuffici-
ently? and he ſaid he had ſpoken as he found, for the Dame
was a foul Witch, and the ſitter moſt ugly monſters. When
I told him, how he ſhould have commended their beauties and
take them for his beſt of alliances. And he replied, he had ra-
ther have ſeen them all hanged. Then (groth I) you muſt al-
ways receive ſuch reward as now you do, but wiſdom would
do otherwiſe, a lye ſometimes as much availeth, as a true
tale: and fair words never come out of ſeaſon, and better then
we, hold it for a rule worthy of imitation.

Thus my Lord, I have told you truly how he came by his
red night-cap, which I know he cannot, nor dare to deny, for
all this is true without any addition.

The Pleasant History.

CHAP. 23:

How *Isegrim* profered his Glove to *Reynard* to fight with him, which *Reynard* accepted; and how *Rukemaw* advised the Fox how to carry himself in the fight.

THE *Wolf* answered the Fox: I may well forbeare (false Villain as thou art) thy mocks and scozns, but thine injuries I will not. Now say, I was almost dead for hunger, when you helpt me in my need, but thou leest falsely therein, for it was nothing but a bare bone thou gavest me when thou hast gnawed all the meat thereof: and therefore know in this thou injurest my reputation; again, thou accusedst me of treason against the King, and to conspire his Majesties death for certain treasure thou sayest is in *Husterloe*: also thou hast abused and slandered my wife, which will ever be an infamy to her name, if it be not revenged: these things considered, I have forborn you long, therefore looke now to escape, wherefore seeing there is no other testimony but our own consciences: here before you my Lord the King, and therest of my Noble Lords, friends and alliances, here I will affirm & approve to the last drop of my blood, that thou *Reynard* the Fox wert a false Traytor, and a murderer, and this I will approve and make good upon thy bod: within the Lifes of the field, by my against by my, by which means our strife shall have an end; and in witness hereof I cast thee here my Glove, which I bade thee to take up, that I may have right for mine injuries, or else be a Recceant.

Reynard was something perplexed when he saw this, for he knew himself much to weak for the *Wolf*, and feared to combat by the worst; but straight remembering the advantage he had by reason the *Wolfs* fore-claws were pulled away, and that they were not yet fully cured, he said whatsoever he be that saith I am a Traytor, or a murderer, I say he lyeth in his throat, especially *Isegrim* above all others: for fool, thou bringest me to the place I desire, and to the purpose I wish for, in sign whereof I take up the gage, & throw down mine to approve all thy wordes lyes and falsehoods.

th him,
the Fox

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This said, the king received their pledges, and appointed
the battle, commanding them to put in their lances, that
the next morning they should try the combat upon West (with
the Boar, and the Calandinos lances in the field: and
so, the Fox wore lances Grindard the Wock and Witelus
When



The Morall.

By the Wolf
challenging the
Combat of the
Fox, is shewed
the madnes of
rage & fury, &
how negligent
it is in respect
ing its own ha-
zard, so it may
do mischief to
the adversary.
The Foxes ac-
cepting of it
shews how
when policy
hath no other
shutting hole
than then it

When all ceremonies were finished, the the Apo took Rey-
nard aside and said, Psephew, I beseech you take care of your
self in this battle, be bold and wise, your Uncle taught me
once a Prayer of singular virtue, for him which was to fight
and the learned it of that excellent Scholar and Clark, the
Abbot of Badelo, and he that saith this prayer with a good de-
votion fasting, shall never be overcome in combat. and there-
fore my best Psephew be not afraid, for to morrow I will read
it over to you, and the Wolf shall never prevail against you
The Fox gave her many thanks for her labours, and told
her his quarrel was good and honest, and therefore he had no
doubt of his happy success: so all the night he rested with
his kinsfolke about him, who were away the time with
pleasant discourse, But some Rukew his Aunt, still bear-
ing her brain how to work him advantage in the combat, where-
fore she caused all his hair to be shaven off even from his head
to his tail, and then she anointed all his body quite over with
oil. To the that the more it so smooth and slippery, that the

of Reynard the Fox

Wolf could catch no hold of him: besides he was round fat
 and plump of body, which much availeth to his advantage;
 when she advised him that might to sink exceeding much that
 he might be more apt to pisse in the morning, but in no wise
 it, when any till he come into the field; then (said she) when you
 are in the fight and so time sitting pisse on your bush tail and
 strike it in the Wolfes face, and as near as you can into his
 eyes, by which means blinding his sight he shall be little a-
 ble to offend you: and but at these special times keep your tail
 as close as can be between your legges, least he catch hold
 thereon, and pull you to the ground; also look carefully to
 your self at the first, and by all means shun his blows making
 him to toyl and run after you, especially there were most dust
 is, and spring it up with your feet, make it spe in his eyes,
 take your advantage and smite and bite him to where you may
 do him most mischief, ever and anon striking him on the face
 with your tail full of pisse, and that will take from him both
 sight and understanding: besides it will so tire and weary
 him, that his fat not being fully cured of their hurt by the
 loss of his shoes, (which you caused to be pulled off) he will
 not be able to pursue you: for though he be great, yet his heart
 is little and weak. This (Pepheh) is mine advice, and as-
 sure your self in those cases: Art prevailing as much as
 courage: therefore regard your self well, that not onely your
 self, but your whole family may gain honour and reputation
 from your fortune: as for the charm of prayer which your
 Uncle Martin taught me by which you may be invincible, it
 is this which followeth, then laying her hand upon his head,
 she said, Bluard, Shay, Alphenio, Ra-bue, Gorsone, Alsbuifrio,
 Now Pepheh assure your self you are free from all mis-
 chief of danger whatsoever, therefore go to your rest, for it
 is now day, and some sleep will make the body better dispo-
 sed.

grows despe-
 rate, and will
 out-face any
 thing to the
 uttermost dan-
 ger. By the she
 Apes counsel is
 shewed the
 care of a true
 friend, which is
 then ever most
 busy, when he
 sees his compa-
 nion in danger,
 & leaves no way
 unsought that
 may free him
 from trouble.

The Fox gave her infinite thanks, and told her she had
 bound him (to her) a servant for ever: and in those holy words
 she had spoken, he had placed his confidence unremovable &
 so he laid him down to rest under a Tree in the grasse, till it
 was

pleasant History

took him off: at what time the other came unto him and
 showed him, and gave him a fat young Duck to eat, saying:
 Dear Cousin, I have killed all this night to get this present
 for you, which I took from a Fowler: here take and eat it,
 and it shall give you vigour and courage. The Fox gave him
 many thanks, and said, it was fortunate himself, and if he



of Reynard the Fox

fortified that day, he shewd find he would regaine it: so the
Fox eat the Duck with his Head on Sauce, more then his
hunger, and so it he drank out great draughts of water, and
then he went to the place appointed where the liks stood, with
all his kindred attending on him.

When the King beheld Reynard, thus shewn and oyled, he



The pleasant History

said to him: Well For, I see you are careful of your own safety: you respect not beauty so you escape danger. The Fox answered not a word, but having himself murthered by the earth he lay before the King and the Queens Majesties. Went forth into the field, and at the same time the Wolf was also ready, and stood boasting, and giving out many proud and vain-glorious speeches. The Kings and Rulers of the Lists, were the Usher, and the Hostess. These brought forth a Book, on which the Wolf swore, and maintained his assertion, that the Fox was a Traytor, and a Murderer, which he would prove on his body, or else he counted a Kecreant. Then Reynard took the Book and swore, he lied as a false Traytor and a Kief, which he would prove on his body, or he counted a Kecreant.

When these ceremonies were done, the Marshals of the field bade them to do their devoute. And then every creature abided the Lists, save some Rukenaw, who stood by the Fox, and bade him remember the words and instructions she had given him, and call to mind, how when he was scarce seven years old, he had then wisdom enough to pass the darkest night without Lanthorn or Candle-light, or the help of the Moon, when any occasion required him; and that his experience was much greater, and his reputation of wisdom more frequent with his companions: and therefore to work so as he might win the day, which would be an internal monument to him and his family for ever. To this the Fox answered, (My best Aunt) assure your self I will do my best, and not forget a tittle of your counsel; I doubt not but my friends shall reap honour. and my foes shame by my actions: to this the Ape said Amen, and so departed.

of Reynard the Fox.

CHAP. 24.

Of the Combate betwixt the Fox and the Wolf; the event, passages, and victory.



When none but the Combatants were in the Lists, the Wolf went towards the Fox with infinite rage and fury, and thinking to take the Fox in the fore-feet, the Fox leapt nimbly from him, and the Wolf pursued him, so that there began a tedious chase between them, on which their friends gazed. The Wolf taking larger strides than the Fox often overtook him: and lifting up his feet to strike him, the Fox avoided the blow, and smote him on the face with his tail, which was all to be pitied; so that the Wolf was stricken almost blind, the pain smarted so extremely. And he was forced to rest while he cleared his eyes, which had advantage when Reynard saw, he soatched up the dust with his feet and threw it in the eyes of the Wolf. This grieved him worse than the former, so that he durst follow him no longer, for the dust & sand sticking in his eyes smarted so sore,

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that of force he must rub and wash it away, which Reynard seeing, with all the fury he had he ran upon him, and with his teeth gave him three sore wounds on his head, and scoffing said; have I bit you *Wolfe*? I will yet bit you better: you have killed many a Lamb, and many an innocent beast, and would impose the fault upon me, but you shall find the price of your knavery: I am marked to punish thy sins, & I will give thee thy absolution by myself. It is good thou use patience; for hell is purgatory, and thy life is at my mercy: Yet notwithstanding, if thou wilt kneel down, and ask me forgiveness and confess thy self vanquished (though thou beest the worst thing living) yet I will spare thy life, for my pity makes me loath to kill thee. These words made *Negrim* both mad and desperate, so that he knew not how to express his fury; his wounds bled, his eyes smarted, and his whole body was oppressed, so that in the height of his fury he lift up his foot, and struck the Fox so great a blow, that he fell'd him to the ground. But Reynard being nimble, quickly rose up again, and encountred the *Wolfe*, that betwixt them began a dreadful and doubtfull combat. The *Wolfe* was exceeding furious, and ten times he leaped to catch Reynard fast, but his skin was so slippery and oyle, he could not hold him, *Ray*, so wondrous nimble was he in the fight, that when the *Wolfe* thought to have him fast, he would shift himself between his leggs, and under his belly, and every time gave the *Wolfe* a bite with his teeth, or a smap on the face with his tail, that the poor *Wolfe* found nothing but despair in the conflict, albeit his strength was much the greater.

Thus many wounds and bitings passing on either side; the one expressing cunning and the other strength the one fury, the other temperance. In the end the *Wolfe* being enraged that the battle had continued so long (for had his feet been found, it had been much shorter) he said to himself, I will make an end of this combat, for I know my opponent is able to crush him to pieces, and I will make an extraordinary effort to suffer him thus long to overmatch me. And thus saying, he struck the Fox again so sore a blow on the head

of Reynard the Fox

with his foot, that he fell down to the ground, and ere he could recover himself and arise, he caught him in his feet, and threw him under him lying upon him in such wise, as if he would have pressed him to death.



Now began the Fox to be grievously afraid, and all his friends also, and all his friends began to shout for joy:

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The Wolf.

By the Wolfs
furious assail-
ing the Fox, &
the Foxes
watching and
pursuing of ad-
vantages, is
shewed the fol-
ly of rage and
passion, and the
discretion of
temperance &
wisdom; the
first nevertrin-
g any thing
but self, the
the commonly
accompanied
with honor &
safety. By the
distail is ex-
prest the sharp
afflictions with
which wisdom
ever punishes
rashness, & by
the loss of the
Wolfs eye, is
shewed, That
madness and
rage is ever
more but blind-
ness. The
Wolfs catching
the Fox, and
holding him
in his power,
shews that for-
tune sometimes
favours fools,
but never gives
them grace to

but the Fox defended himself as well as he could with his
claws, lying along; and the Wolf could not hurt him with
his claws his feet were so sore; only with his teeth he snatched
at him to bite him: to which when the Fox saw, he smote
the Wolf on the head with his fore-claws, so that he tore the
skin betwix his brows, and his ears, and one of his eyes
hung out of his head, which put the Wolf to infinite tor-
ment, and he howled out extremely: then Isegrim wiping
his face, the Fox took advantage thereof, and with his strong
ling got upon his feet.

At which the Wolf was angry, and striking at her him,
caught the Fox in his arms, and held him fast: never was
Reynard in so great a strait as then, for at that time great
was their contention: but anger now made the Wolf forget
his smart: and griping the Fox a together under him, as
Reynard was defending himself, his hand light into Isegrims
mouth, so that he was in danger to lose it. When said the
Wolf to the Fox, now either yield thy self as vanquished, or
else certainly I will kill thee; neither thy dust, thy piss, thy
mocks nor any subtle invention shall now save thee, thou
art now left utterly desperate, and my wounds must have
their satisfaction. When the Fox heard this, he thought it
was a hard election, for both brought his ruin; and suddenly
concluding, he said; Dear Uncle, since fortune commands
me, I yield to be your servant, and at your commandment
will travel for you to the Holy Land, or any other Pilgrim-
age, or do any service which shall be beneficial to your soul,
or the soul of your fore fathers: I will do for the King or for
our Holy Father the Pope: I will hold of you my Lands &
revenues, and as I shall all the rest of my kindred: so that
you shall be a Lord of many Lords, and none shall dare to
move against you. Besides, whatsoever I get of Pullains,
Cats, Partridges, or Plover, flesh or flesh you, your wife and
children shall have the first choice ere any come in my belly.
I will ever stand by you: And wheresoever you go, no danger
shall come near you: you are strong, and I am subtle. We
two joined together, what force can prevail against us?

Again,

of Reynard the Fox

Again, we are so near in blood, that nature forbids there should be any enmity betwixen us: I would not have sought against you had I been sure of victory, but that you first appeared me, and then you know of necessity I must do my utmost: I have also in this battle been courteous to you, and not showed my worst violence, as I would on a stranger, for I know it is the duty of a Prophet to spare his Uncle: and this you might well perceive by my coming from you, I tell you it was an action much contrary to my nature: for I might often have hurt you when I refused, nor are you worse for me by any thing, more then the blemish of your eye, for which I am sorry, & wish it had not hapned: yett ye know that: or shall reap rather benefit then loss thereby: for when the Beasts in their sleep shut two windows, you shall shut but one. As for my wife, and children, and lineage they shall live on at your feet before you in any presence: therefore I humbly desire you, that you will suffer poor Reynard to live: I know you will kill me, but what will that avail you when you shall never live in safety for fear of revengement of my kindred? Wherefore temperance in any man's wrath is excellent, whereas rashness is ever the mother of repentance: but Uncle, I know you to be valiant, wise, and discreet, and you rather seek honour, peace, and good fame, then blood and revenge.

Hegrim the Wolf said, Infinite dissembler, how shalt thou be freed of my servitude? Too well I understand thee and know that if thou were safe on thy feet thou wouldst swear this submission: but know, all the wealth in the world shall not buy out thy ransom: for hee and thy friends esteem them not, nor believe any thing thou hast uttered: too well I know thee and am no fool for thy lime-bush chaff cannot deceive me: How wouldst thou triumph if I should escape thee, and say, I wanted wit to understand thee, but thou hast know, I can look both on this side, and beyond thee; thy many deceits used upon me, have now armed me against thee. Thou saidst thou hast spared me in the battle: but look on me, and my wounds will shew how falsest thou wast, then

injoy the benefit. The Fox flattering of the Wolf shews that whensoever wisdom is expressed, it hath still one temperate means, or other to gain his own liberty, & that fair words do ever of her vanquish, reasonish. Lastly, by the weak Foxes conquering the strong Wolf, a shewed what in all these accidents of change, neither force, rage nor violence do prevail so much as wisdom, discretion, and temperate and wary carriage.

The pleasant History

thou never gavest me a time to breathe in, nor will I now give thee a minute to repent in, and therefore when I think of thy dishonour thou dost to my bed, and how inhumanely thou dost ravish my dear Wife, Dame Arwinde.

Now whilst leg-im was thus talking he for better though himself to he might best get free, and therefore he his other hand down between his legs, he caught the Wolf fast by the stones, and he wrung him so extreemly and hard thereby that he made him squeake and howl out with the anguish: then the Fox drew out his other hand out of his mouth, so the Wolf was in such wondrous torment that he had much ado to contain himself from swoounding: for this torment exceeded above the pain of his eye, and in the end he fell over in a swoound: then presently Reynard leaped upon him, and drew him about the Ears, and dragged him by the legs and struck and wounded him in many places, so that all the whole field might take notice thereof.

At this all leg-im's friends were full of sorrow, and with great weeping and lamenting went to the King, and prayed him to be pleased to appease the combat and take it into his own hands: which suit the King granted, and then the Reynard and the Lesson (being Marshalls) entered the Lists and told the Fox and the Wolf that the King would speak with them and that the battle should there end, for he would take it into his own hands, and determine thereof: as for themselves they had done sufficiently, neither would the King lose either of them: and so the Fox they said, they whole field gave him the victory.

The Fox said, I humbly thank them, and what pleased my Lord the King to command, I am ready to obey for mine ambition is no further then to be victor: therefore I beseech you let my friends come to attend me, that I may proceed by their advice. They answered, it was reason; so presently came forth dame Slopecard and Grimbard her husband, came Rukenaw with her two sisters, Bitolus and Falrump her two sons, and Malice her Daughter, the Field-Mouse, the Weasel, and above an hundred which would not have come

of Reynard the Fox

if the Fox had lost the conquest: for to him it at last honour,
will ever seek attendants; but to him that is in loss, will
nothing but contempt follow. Alas the Fox came to the Pe-
ter, the Otter, and both their wives: Pauncecrote, and Old-
gale, and the Oskrole, the Martin, and the Fitchew, the Fir-
rie, the Squinil, and a world more than I can name, and
all because he has the wick: ray diverse whet before has
complained of him, were now of new kindred; and ready
to do him all service. This is the fashion of the world, be-
that is rich and in favour, can never be poor or hungry for
friendship: every one will seem to love him, every one will
imitate his fashions.



When was a solemn feast held; Trumpets were sounded,
Cornets kindred, Shew me and all instruments warbed
and every one cryed prated he haden for his glorious con-
quest. Reynard thanked them all kindly, and received them
with great joy and gladness: then asked their opinion whe-
ther he should yield the victory to the King or to Dame
Sloard

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Slopard said, yea by all means Can In, for it stands with your honour, nor may you deny it. And (so the Spar hells going before) they went all to the King, guarding the Fox on every side, all the Trumpets, Pipes, and Minacills sounding be- fore him.



of Keynard the Fox.

When Keynard came before the King, he fell on his knees and the King bade him stand up and : applauded him for his request over the Hegrim. and said I will call to remembrance the Works words and the Quene, which are these, For mine own part howsoever I have erred, yet I have strong ground for my perswasion, and whether Reynard be good or bad, yet it stands with your Excellency not to proceed against him, but by the true form of your Lawes: for he hath no power to escape you, but must obey whatsoever your safety can impose upon him. When the Quen had thus spoken Eirapel the Albarde to second her intreaty, said; My Lord the Quen hath spoken graciously, & I see not wherein your Majesty can stray from her judgment: Therefore let him take the due trial of your Lawes, and being found guilty of the trespasses whereof he is accused, let him be summoned: and if he appear not before your least be ended, to clear himself, or submit to your mercy; then may your highness proceed against him as it shall seem best to your pleasure.

To this speech Hegrim the Wolf replied, Sir Frapel, for my own part, I think not any of this assembly will dissent from your counsel, so it may stand with the pleasure of my Lord the King: yet this I dare maintain, that howsoever Reynard shall clear himself of these, and a thousand such like trespasses which shall be brought against him: Yet I have that lodgeth in my bosom, which shall approve he hath forfeited his life: but at this time his absence shall make me silent, only touching the treasure of which he hath informed his Majesty to lie at Crekenpit in Husterloe, there never came a false information from the mouth of any creature: for it was a lie out of malice to wrong me and the Bear, and get himself liberty to rob and spoil all that pass by his house, as now he doth: but notwithstanding I held it meet that all things be done as shall seem good to his Majesty, or you Sir Frapel: Yet this believe that if he had meant to have appeared he had been here long since, for he had summons given him by the Kings Messenger. In the same sort, my Lord, said the Fox this false Bear and the rest, being many Lords, for

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their desires, and are mighty and renowned: then do they ex-
tort, pill and pill the poor and needy, and eat them up like so
many hungry Starved Hounds, for they are the Dogs with
baites in their mouths, no man dare to meddle with them,
but praise all their actions: no man dare offend them; nay
many assist and help them in their unlawful actions, onely
that they may lick their fingers and be partakers of their ex-
ortions.

O (my dear Lord!) how can those men go safely, which
go thus blisdefould? O how can they expect but a shameful
fall, whose steps are so uncertaın? neither can any man pity
them when their works are disclosed; but continual curses
and upbraidings follow them to the grave with destruction:
many of these have lost their hair (which is their friends)
as the Hound did and have none left to cover their mischiefs,
but all forsake them as the Hounds did the Dog which was
seised.

My gracious Lord, I beseech you remember this Moxall
example, and it will nothing impair the greatness of your
virtue, for doubtless many of these evil extorting creatures
are under your subjection, both in Towns, Cities, and great
Lords houses, who outface the poor, and sell away their free-
doms & Priviledges, and threaten things upon them which
they never knew, thought of imagined, and all to make up
the Common-wealths of their own particular profits: I
fear no creatures accusations; For I will never be the For,
though all my says stand to the contrary. My Lord, you
I adore above all mortall creatures living; nor any wise-
some obvert me from you, but I will abide by you to the last
gaspe: and though malice hath told your Highness to the
contrary, yet I have ever disapproved them, and so will do to
the last moment.

of Reynard the Fox

CHAP. 25.

How the King forgave the Fox all things, and made him the
greatest in his Land: and of his noble return home with
all his kindred.

The King said; Reynard, you are one that owes me ho-
mage & fealty, and I hope I shall ever enjoy it: And for



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your service, here I make you one of the Lords of my privy Councell. Take heed you do not any thing unworthily, for I have in mind the Words to the Wrock when she came to summon you to the Court. well may they prate and jangle and tire themselves with their Counsells, but without the help of my wit and policy, neither can the Court or Common-wealth have any long continuance let us enter into my Castle and feast. I have a pair of fat Pigeons for you, which are meat of pure and light digestion; I love not any thing better, they are young and tender, and may be almost swallowed whole, for their bones are little other then blood; yet come I say, my wife Ermeline will receive you kindly, but by all means report not to her of any dangers, for she is of soft and melting temper, and it might strike her into sabbasin sickness, for women are apt to entertain grief. When we have feasted, I will then to morrow early in the morning go with you to the Court and if I can but attain speech with the King, I shall gail some deep enough, only this I desire (dear Nephew) at your hands, that you will stand to me, as one friend & kinsman ought to do one by another. Doubt me not (said Grimbard) for both my life and goods shall be at your service. I think you Nephew said the Fox) and you shal not find me ingratel. Sir (said the Wrock) be bold of this, that you shall come & make your answer before the Lords freely, for none shall dare to arrest or hold you, for that favour the Queen and the Upbard have purchast from the King, I am glad of that (said the Fox) nor care I then a hair for their worst malice. And this said, they went into Malepardus, and found Ermeline sitting among her younglings, who presently arose, and received the Wrock with all reverence, and be on the other part saluted her and her Children with all courtesy and so departed.

Now whilst these passages hapned, Bruine and Tybert, & Arwinden with the rest of their Kinage, dressed the Wolves wounds. His sickness and weaknesse was so great, that his feeling was lost: but they rubbed and chased him on the temples

of Reynard the Fox



The Mirall.

By these honours done to the Fox by the Lyon, is shewed, that seldom one good fortune cometh without another, and he that hath once achieved fame and renown to him will the world fly, and dignity on dignity shall be heaped upon him: as on the contrary part, he that is once fallen, either in state or reputation, it is a thing of much difficulty to see him advanced without miracle, for worldly men are said to be like Dogs which when

one of their own kind is down, all the rest will fall upon him, and worry him.

pleas and under the eyes, will he leap out of his swoons, and howled so loud, that all were amazed which heard him: but the physicians gave him Cordials to drink, and a doxmiture of portion to make him sleep. And then comforted his wife, telling her there was no danger or peril of his life. So the and every Beast returned to his own home,

Ameng

The pleasant History

Amongst the rest, Reynard the Fox took his leade of the King and Queen, they desired him not to be long absent from them. To whom he answered, that he would be ever ready at their service, as was his bounden duty; and not himself alone, but all his friends and kindred also. And so begging licence of his Majesty in all solemn manner, and with fair speech, he departed the Court.



of Reynard the Fox

of the
ent from
er ready
himself a
gging li-
with fair

What creature that ever flatterd haue, as to better
purpose, for he that cou'd to the like, might be a Master of
the right liberal Science. And he that hath a better Spirit
of Temporal, but he could haue a more open for all the Lan-
guage. For he is without fault, for he hath Children
almost in all places.

And indeed he that hath no allures to him in the Art of
Simulation, shall hardly prosper, as the World goeth:
Though he want his hair, yet if he hate his heart, it is en-
ough to make him accepted.

Plain dealing is newen style, and Courtcrafts and
rude have taken possession of his Elements: nor the Poles
Palace, the Court of Emperours, Kings and Princes cannot
be exempted of this error.

Open y is now grown the only Father of the time; the
the Church, the and the Country norship it can pur-
chase all things, defend all things, and confer all things:
And mad men travel o'er the World, to gain this folk,
this fashion; Who is not a true Fox, is but a beast of base es-
timation.

This is the world as now, and this will become of the
use, the World man can hardly judge or imagine: Only that
these have one line of falsehood, I tell, further, and Ambition,
can never walk but hand in hand with Judgement. From
which I heartily pray that the Hand of the High God will re-
fend us, and make us walk in those paths which shall be suit-
able to this time and place. With which I conclude since these
visions are not fit to be made so; we treat off, since at the
last day every one is sure to give an account for his own be-
haviour.

With Reynard all his friends and his folks, to the
number of forty took their leave of the King,
and went away with the Fox, who had no little
glad creature that he had sped well and good so far in the
things before: for now he had power enough to advance
whom he pleased; and pull down any that entred his se-
lone.

The pleasant History

After some trabel the Fox and all his friends came to the
Borough or Castle of Malepardus, where everyone (in noble
and courteous manner) took leave of other, and Reynard, his



to everyone of them great reverence, & that the more for the
base and base he had received of them: protesting there-
fore to remain their faithful servant, and to follow them for

of Reynard the Fox

me to be
in nob
nard, do

all things wherein his life is good might befall to
them: and took hands and departed,

The Fox went in to Dame Emelin his Wife, who well-
comed him with great tenderness: And to her and children
he related at large, all the wonders which had befallen him
at the Court: & missed no little of circumstance therein. Then
grew they proud that his Fortune was so excellent: and the
Fox spent his dayes from thenceforth (with his Wife and
Children) in great joy and content.

Now whosoever shall relate unto you (of the Fox) more or
lesse then you have heard: I would not wish you to build any
faith upon his reports: Onely this which you have already
heard or read, you may believe at your best pleasure: And if
any refuse, he shall notwithstanding be accounted an Heretick,
sins he that onely saith it, may best give credit unto it,
and yet many in this world believe the things they have not
seen.

Wellnow, there are many Payes, both Comick and Moeal
which figure out things that are true, onely to make use
and benefit of the example: That men may thereby be bet-
ter in Vice, and pursue Virtues. In like manner, this
Fable, though it contain but matter of jest and sport yet if he
look seriously thereinto, he may hereby find much Moeal mat-
ter and wisdom, both by his consideration. Consider now any
Good man shall he find it in this fable, for all things are ge-
nerally spcke, and every man may take his own part as his
conscience shall so it direct him: Every man find himself too
much oppressed, if he make it call with amendment. If any
man be clear, let him hold on his path, and at old humbling:
And if any take displeasure, let him not blame me, but
the Fox, for it is only his language. But if all things are
to be wised in imagination, I shall then be encouraged to
saute the World with a second part, clad in some nearer
English, deeper manner, and if not more, yet every whit as
pleasant Moeals.

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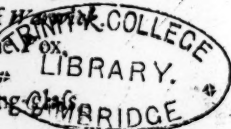
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